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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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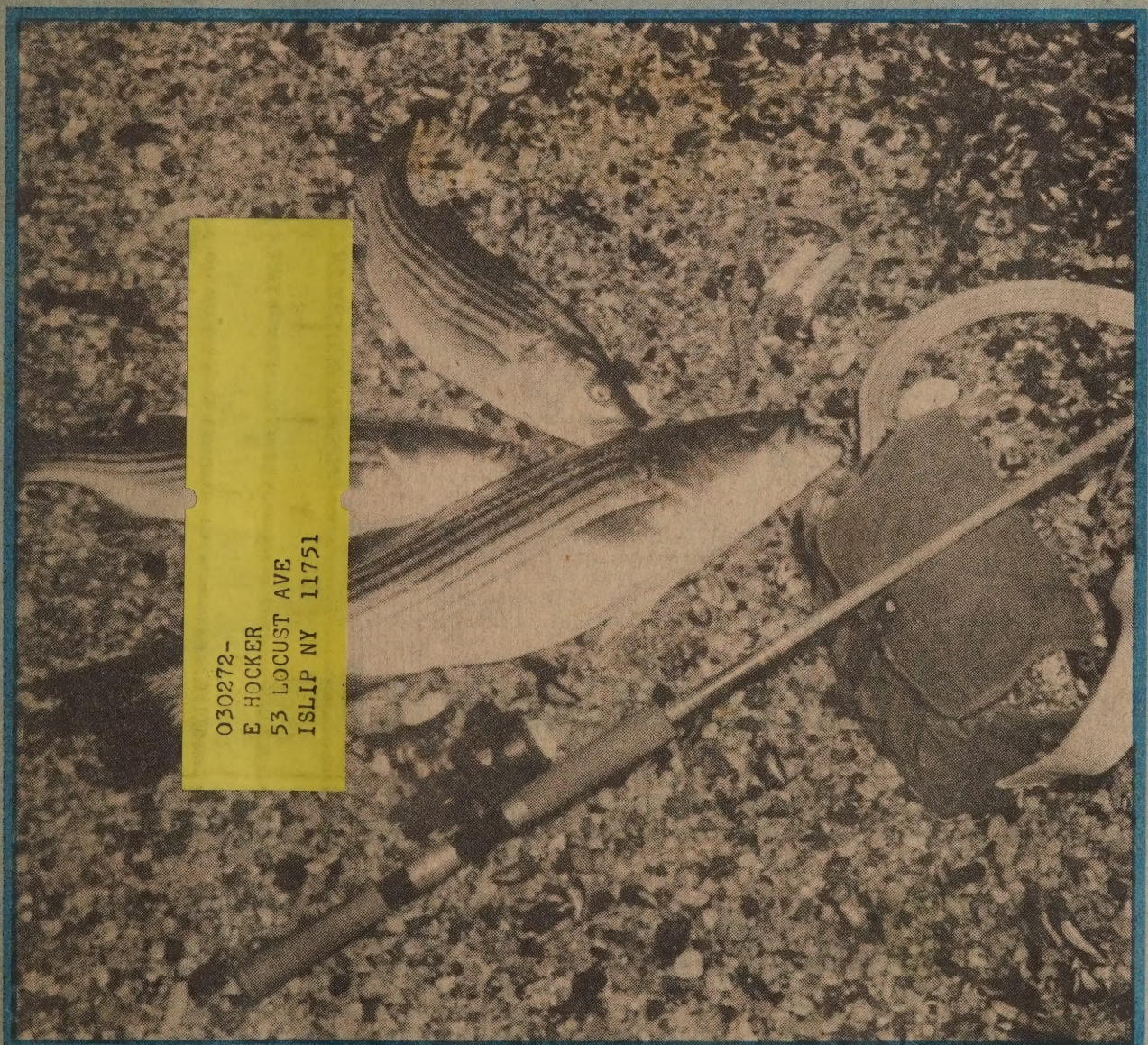
APRIL 15th, 1976, ISSUE No. 13



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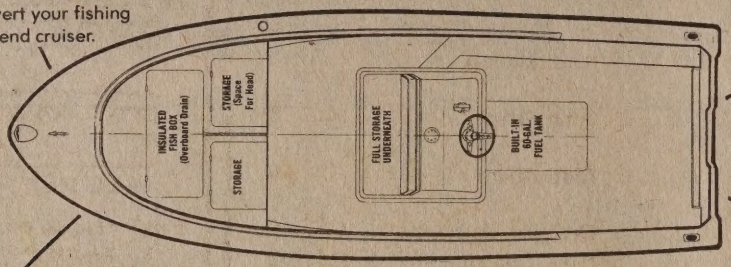

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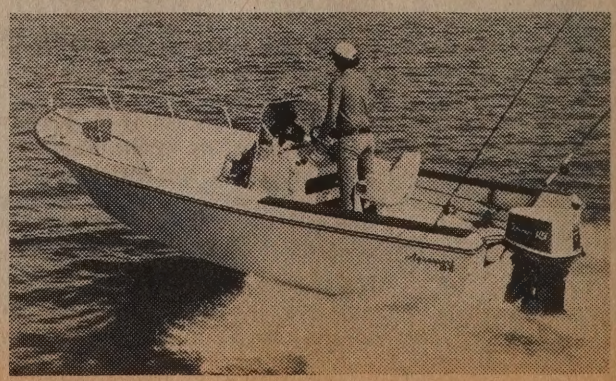

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOLUME 11, No. 13 April 15th, 1976

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ABOUT THE COVER: One of the biggest problems facing the striped bass is our lack of understanding what their problems are. Read Part X of Dr. Muller's series "L.I. Marine Ecology" on page 10.

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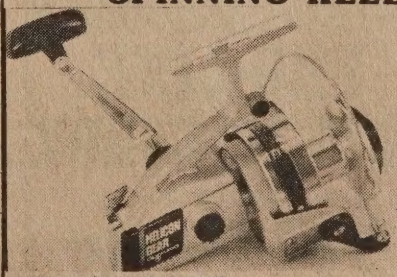

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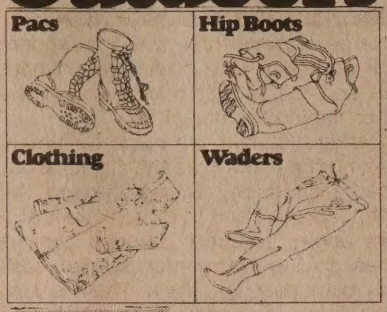

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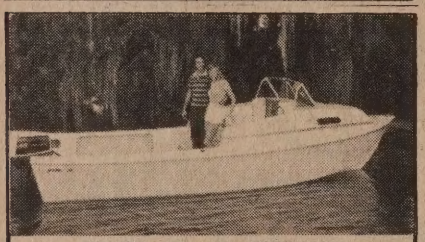

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SATISFIED FISHERMAN

My friend and I had been planning a cod fishing trip for a number of weeks, and finally on February 9th, 1976 the day arrived.

We agreed that we would venture out to sea on the Starstream out of Freeport. The weather promised to be excellent, and as we boarded, my expectations were high.

There were four other fishermen aboard, (we made six), and I began to wonder if the Captain would sail. I remembered all the times that I had fished on party boats where you could hardly move, and thought that the fair thing would be for this boat to sail today. After all you must take the good with the bad.

At 0615 the mate came aboard and stated that the minimum fares for sailing are seven and that if we agreed to make up the difference, by paying two dollars apiece more, the boat would sail. We agreed. Just as the boat was leaving the dock another fisherman came aboard. To quote the mate, "You got a reprieve."

The owners, Captain and mates of the Starstream should be commended. I don't see how this trip could have been profitable for them. The mates were friendly and helpful. The Captain did his best to put us into fish. We caught some fish, had near perfect weather and a great day.

See, not everybody complains.

PARTS FOR MAKING FISHING LURES

Being a surf fishing bug, I look forward to your publication every week. Your articles prove very interesting and of course helpful to me and many others.

I do have a small, but very important problem, which others may also share or have the respective answer.

The high cost of plugs which many of us must endure can put a large dent in anyones pocket. My question is, Do you or anyone know of any dealer that sells lure bodies and parts suitable for us surf casters? With your help, or help from other readers some of us may lessen the cost for that dream trophy bass. Thank you for your time and effort. "Keep a tight line." **Bob Richards, Shirley, NY**

Plug bodies and component parts such as hooks, lips, and slip rings can be purchased from various discount tackle and mail order houses. Examples include: Herder's, Midland Tackle and Reed's Tackle.

However, I think that you'll find the prices of these plugs to be almost as expensive as those sold in stores. Your best bet is to look for sales in large sporting goods stores such as Herman's World of Sporting Goods. Dr. Wm. A. Muller.

News Releases

STRIPER BASS FUND NEWS RELEASE

The Striped Bass, so much a part of our lives, our history, our economy, is endangered by chemical pollution...and those of us who have an environmental, recreational and economic interest in clean water and fish must act with voice and funds to halt this criminality and decline in this vital fish population.

The Striped Bass Fund, Inc., founded in 1973, is the only national organization focused specifically on the preservation and the promotion of the striped bass fishery. Thus far, the Fund has contributed $40,000 as our share of the cost in preventing the wholesale destruction of infant striped bass by Consolidated Edison of New York at Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River, spawning waters for the mid-Atlantic bass.

The population decline is real. Two marine laboratories have received the Fund tabulation of the number and size of striped bass which were registered in the 30th Annual Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby conducted on Martha's Vineyard last Fall. Of the 909 stripers, 300 exceeded 25 pounds, and 53 of the bass went from 40 to 54 pounds. A record distortion...one described by a scientist as evidence that this generation is witness to the "last of the dinosaurs" and, by others as the loss of "what might have been" in terms of population and good fishing. Our Reinfelder Center plans to compile catch data from Maine to Maryland which will provide a monthly profile of the population for each coastal state.

An officer of the New England Electric Association was quoted as saying that the cost of clean water was not worth the price required. We hold with the old salt who once defined justice with the observation that "the incoming tide lifts all the boats evenly". Like the action of the tide, the lift of progress should be even. We hold that nation has the economic power to insure that fish and clean water are not on the short end of a trade off with industrial priorities.

Your Fund contribution or membership, which includes a timely newsletter, decal and membership card, is tax deductible. We hope that you will agree with the member who said "I thought it was worth the price of a tank of gas to save that fish". For further information, write to: Striped Bass Fund, Inc. Martha's Vineyard Island, Box 656, Oak Bluffs, Mass. 02557.

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Mackerel Fishing

As this is being written, the huge schools of mackerel are rapidly moving up the coastline of New Jersey and may well be within the range of Long Island based boats as these words are read. In any case, it will only be a matter of days before the mackerel are coming over the sides of boats all along the south shore, harbors and ports of Long Island Sound, Peconic Bay and eventually Montauk. So break out that light tackle now and get it ready for the annual spring mackerel blitz!

Although all but the professional skippers are aware of it, the mackerel fishery has experienced a tremendous decimation in its population over the last decade. Where once the huge schools stretched along the Atlantic Coastline for virtually hundreds of miles and would take a month or more to pass by the Long Island coastline, providing blitz fishing in the interim, heavy pressure from the foreign fishing fleets has managed to decimate the size of the schools considerably. The bulk of the schools now take only about two weeks to pass Long Island on their northward trek.

The average fisherman wouldn't notice the situation, because the smaller schools wouldn't be reflected in his catch. Mackerel fishing is blitz type fishing, feast or famine. If you find a school of macks, it doesn't matter if the school is made up of a million or five million fish, the catch will remain the same—as many as you can catch before you become arm weary or boredom sets in. The point is that these mackerel blitzes can only occur now for two weeks, as opposed to the five or six weeks of recent years gone by.

But few anglers even give a second thought to the plight of the "lowly" mackerel. They are too easy to catch for the purists of the sport to be considered a challenge to skillful angling, and the bloody flesh doesn't make the mackerel the most popular of food fish. The anglers who make a trip or two for mackerel each spring for the shear fun of it aren't concerned, because of the reasons stated previously. So when a polish trawler was seized this year for violating the 12 mile limit, scant attention was paid to the 728,000 pounds of mackerel in the ship's hold. Fortunately, the 200-Mile Limit should reverse this trend.

So why am I so concerned about the plight of the mackerel when nobody really cares? Let's put it this way...suppose the news stories about the Polish ship seized with the catch of mackerel had taken this slant in their headlines: "FOREIGN SHIP SEIZED WITH 728,000 POUNDS OF STRIPED BASS FOOD!" or replace the words striped bass with tuna, bluefish, weakfish, fluke, swordfish, shark, etc. The point is that VIRTUALLY EVERY PREDATOR in our waters will feed on mackerel as a primary food source...WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE. Ask any western Long Island Sound fisherman what happened to his bass and bluefishing when the commercial bunker boats decimated that food supply a few years ago, or last summer when the bunker schools extended their range north for some reason. In any case, if such a large source of food as the mackerel were decimated beyond recovery for any reason, all fishermen who fish for the predators that feed on the mackerel would be affected.

Keeping all of the above in mind, maybe now you can see that there is another reason for mackerel fishing other than the sheer fun of it—you're also catching an excellent bait that can be used for other species! So mackerel fishing is performing a dual function. Each year at The Fisherman someone makes a mackerel trip to fill up the freezer for the summer with this prime bait for fishing. Two or three whole mackerel are placed in a plastic bag, which is then tied close, and the macks are then stacked like cordwood in the freezer. When needed, a bag or two is removed, defrosted and cut into bait.

Caring for the mackerel right after the catch is very important if it is to be used as an effective bait at a later time. The flesh of a mackerel will quickly become soft and mushy if not kept cool and out of the sun. Whenever possible, keep the fish on ice, or at least on a stringer in the water to keep the flesh as firm as possible. Don't cut up the fish into bait for freezing—the fish will stand up better to the freezing process if frozen whole.

There are three basic methods of using mackerel for bait: whole, chunk or fillet. Whole mackerel are usually reserved for use by the blue water offshore fishermen in the pursuit of big game such as giant tuna, sharks, marlin and swordfish. Rigging a mackerel for big game is an art in itself, so we won't go into it at this time. But the smaller "tinker" mackerel can easily be rigged for large doormat fluke with the tandem hook fluke rig. One hook through both jaws and the stinger hook through the tail or behind the dorsal fin.

Mackerel chunks are made by simply steaking the fish. Make the steaks about a half inch thick, cutting through the flesh, backbone and guts of the fish at a right angle. Mackerel chunks can be fished on the bottom for striped bass from both boat and surf. They're also effective on the bottom for codfish and bluefish, and can also be used effectively when drift fishing and chumming with bunker for big blues. Small pieces of flesh, with the skin intact, about the size of the tip of your left pinky are excellent bait for snappers in the summer.

Mackerel fillets are effective for big game fishing in a chum slick. By filleting a side of the mack, it's blood and oil will help a predator to find it. To fillet the fish, just make a vertical cut down to the backbone just behind the head. Then turn the blade of the knife flat with the bones and slice off the entire side of the fish. To make a strip bait for large fluke, just cut the fillet in half lengthwise into two long strips. Rig on the tandem hook rig with the top hook through the thick end of the fillet and stinger hook near the end of the thinner flesh that came from the tail of the fish.

The technique used for catching mackerel is actually very simple and requires very little expertise, which is the major reason for their popularity among novice fishermen. The most difficult thing to accomplish is locating a school of fish. As most mackerel fishing is done from professional open boats because of the time of year, weather conditions and distance that must be run many times to reach the mackerel schools, this chore is usually accomplished for you by the captain of the vessel.

Once a school has been located, catching the mackerel is easy. Because there are so many fish crowded together, competition for food is fierce to say the least. So just about any artificial will take a fish on every cast even if not worked according to Hoyle by a novice. Witness the popular mackerel "trees" that are three or four tubes spaced above a small diamond jig that often takes three, four or more mackerel from the water into the boat, heavy tackle is required, sacrificing any of the fun and sport that mackerel fishing holds. If you really

(Continued on page 40.)

Surf Side with John Fritz

Spring Run(?) at Cedar

The word is out! Some early bird fishermen landed a few small bass at Malibu. Great! No more mud flats at Little Neck Bay, no more long trek to the hot water at northport. Back at last to the sandy beaches and pounding surf of the south shore.

It's not 100% yet because we still have to use bait. (Is that right Don?) It is a sign though that another plateau has been reached in the fledgling season.

The last good spring run we've had at Cedar was three years ago but hope is a basic part of any surfman's makeup. Maybe this year the stripers will cooperate. All is not lost though if the bass don't show: Some nice size flounders can be caught for the table. Later on during the first week of May the blowfish cross the Cedar Bar on their way into the bay. Here again these fish have been scarce for the last several years.

A couple, three years ago, George was surprised to haul in a 10 pound black brum while fishing Cedar for bass in the spring. Remember the old cliche, "When your line is in the water anything can happen." Anyone fishing exclusively for bass will regard these fish as a nuisance which will readily decimate your supply of costly worms.

The striped bass usually hit two points on the south shore almost simultaneously. First, the area by the malibu Beach Club at Point Lookout followed a day or so later at the Cedar Beach Democrat Point area. This invasion, I hope anyway, takes place in mid-April. Give or take a few days from April 15th. A bitter cold winter could throw the date back somewhat. With the exception of the last two years though this mid-April beginning has held for most of the last decade.

The first run of fish are usually on the small side with a few bass occasionally exceeding 10 pounds. Your tackle will have to be somewhat heavier than what is used on the north shore for the simple reason that more lead will be needed to hold bottom in the stronger currents of the ocean. Three ounces of lead is about the minimum you will be able to get by with on an average day. This will have to be increased up to possibly six ounces in a heavy surf. I know, I dislike using so much weight myself, especially when seeking small fish, but a place such as Cedar Bar can get crowded. It is better than fouling a series of lines down current. By the way, these beaches are all sand, therefore, the pyramid sinker should be your choice.

On a normal day I use my 11 foot plugging stick with the old standby Crack 300, going to lighter or heavier tackle according to surf conditions. Those of you who can not drive the beach for one reason or other will have to make up your mind beforehand. The 11 foot stick is a good choice for this type of bottom fishing if you only have one.

If you are going to concentrate on bass, the Eagle Claw bait saver in 2/0 or 3/0 size is a good bet. Going for flounders? Make the appropriate choice towards a smaller hook. Maybe fish 2 hooks with the bottom hook your flounder hook.

There are three basic terminal rigs used here: the fishfinder, the surf rig and a Pompano or double loop rig. All these rigs produce fish, which one will be the hot item on any given day I can't say. According to the history of past years the fish finder is better saved until later in the season, the theory being that the fish are sluggish and don't like to chase a bait swaying wildly in the currents. Take this idea a step further, use short leaders early in the year or until the water warms up a bit.

A couple of friends of mine use the Pompano rig almost exclusively. The results can attest to the rig's fish catching ability. This rig can be used with two bass hooks or modified by placing a flounder hook on the bottom loop. Just make sure you tie the loop close enough to the sinker.

This rig is made by forming four loops in a 30" piece of 20 or 30 pound test monofilament. First make two dropper loops, one approximately 6 inches above where the sinker will be, the other about 18 inches further up the line. Now make a loop on each end of this leader. The top loop is placed on your snap swivel at the end of your line. The bottom loop is for your sinker so make sure it is large enough for the sinker to pass through. Take your leaderless hooks and simply pass the loop through the eye of the hook. Slide the loop over the end of the hook and pull taut.

It would be a good idea to make a few of these rigs at home before venturing to the beach. There could be a hitch. If the leader material is too heavy the doubled line might not pass through the eye of the hook. You will then have to go to larger hooks or thinner leader material.

I don't believe the distance is too critical when spacing these loops. When surf fishing, the angle at which the line is laying in the water brings the hooks close to the bottom. When fishing from a boat with the line more or less perpendicular to the bottom this spacing becomes more important.

The surf rig uses the three way swivel, one eye to the line, one to the sinker, and one to the hook. A variation sometimes used involves making a loop in the leader of the hook and adding a second hook, possibly a flounder (#8 Chestertown) hook to this dropper loop forming a Y.

I usually try to get by without using corks, naturally if the crabs become too bothersome I won't hesitate adding them. When using the fishfinder or surf rig I employ the larger size such as the ones found in the tackle stores painted red with the draw string through the center. When using the Pompano rig place one small cork near each hook.

Bloodworms are the most popular bait at this time, with sandworm and skimmer clam used as substitutes. If the bloods are small, as the store bought worms usually are, place 2 or 3 on each hook. On most occasions I will hook the worm through the head leaving the tail hanging free. When bothered with short striking fish try threading the worm up on the snell of the hook. You'll encounter some difficulty trying to do this with the Eagle Claw or any other hooks with eyes. The machine, thread wrapped hooks found in tackle stores are best for this purpose. This method is also better when using sandworms because the tails have a tendency to break off during the cast. Tandem hooks will also solve this problem.

If you happen to be using thawed out frozen skimmer clam and have trouble keeping the bait from flying off on the cast, take along a spool of cotton thread. After imbedding the hook in the clam wind the thread several times around the glob of clam. No knot is required, this is sufficient to hold the bait during the cast.

The surf at Democrat Point is another choice for this type of fishing. The best area occurs from the jetty to a few hundred yards to the east. If the walk is too long try the beach opposite the wreck which is located a little east of where the beach buggy road enters the beach from the dunes. I have had some action here

n the past and most buggy fishermen ill stop and give this spot a try before ushing further on down the beach.

The bar at Cedar is my favorite haunt n April. Whether it out fishes the other ocations I can not say. I have had good uccess here until three years ago. Vhat this year brings, who knows. This ar changes from year to year but asically you fish the bar itself on high ater. During low water move off the bar nto one of the sloughs or pockets you'll nd in this area.

Besides fishing the bar itself, the Old hannel in front of the Overlook parking t can be worked with a good chance of uccess. This is an area of deep water hich is a result of the old boat channel hich was cut here many years ago.

It has been said over and over that the rmation of the beach changes from ear to year. Especially a sandy beach nprotected from the full fury of the cean. So take a walk at low tide along ne beach you intend to fish, before the eason. Check out the new bars and cuts rmed by this winter's storms. Any- ning that looks intersting file in your emory for use later on, remembering take a bearing on some permanent bject above the high tide line. Who nows you might come up with a hot spot nd have it all to yourself.

According to past years parking is llowed in the Babylon Town parking eld at Cedar before the bathing season. riving on the beach without a Babylon own beach vehicle permit can result in $75 fine. If Gilgo remains open the ate permit can be obtained at the dministration Building in Robert Mos- s State Park which will allow you access Democrat Point and the beachfront nmediately west of the Babylon pro- erty at Cedar. Access to the latter can e made through the Farragut Cut, und just east of the Gilgo Coast Guard tation. You will be able to drive east most to the bar at Cedar but don't oss onto Babylon property with your ehicle. All this is if the rumored peline doesn't screw this whole area o.

One last thought before closing. Since ou have plenty of room in your surf bag ith just a few sinkers and hooks, take ong a few tins. Specifically the J-8 and ie medium size slim Hopkins. When ings get boring cast out and let it sink the bottom. Retrieve slowly with equent twitches of the rod tip. You uld be pleasantly surprised by latching to a few nice bass. Then again if this orks too well what are you going to do ith all those worms you paid $2.00 a zen for.

Tackle Box Talk

with Old Pal & Jerry McKinnis

star of TV's "Fishin' Hole" program

"You've got to see it. A drawer box that's big on access and room, yet so compact it fits under a boat seat."

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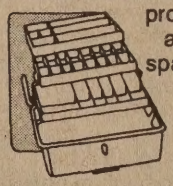

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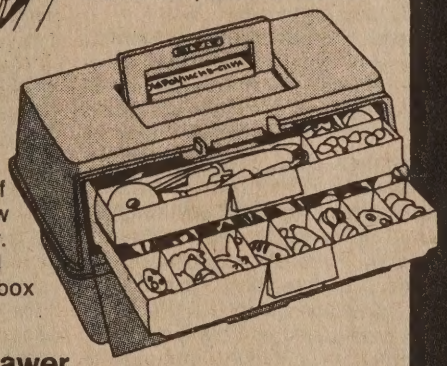

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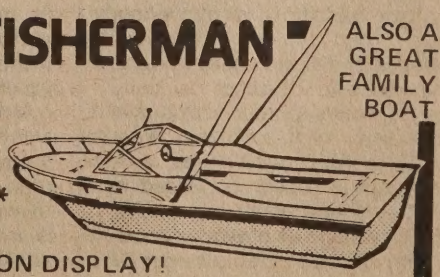

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Snowshoe Flounders

Just about every Long Island fisherman has heard of snowshoe flounders. Indeed, when the subject of large flounders is discussed, these fish are always brought into the conversation. Those fishermen who have caught showshoes like it so much they make this specialized fishing an annual event. Others threaten to "get out there one of these days" and see what the excitement is all about.

There is a good reason for this excitement. On a good day the average snowshoe will weigh between three and four pounds; the experienced fisherman knows he can expect larger ones at any time. Five-pounders are not uncommon and I've been lucky enough to catch several of this size myself.

If you are planning a trip, you'd better get going soon. Now is the time. It's common knowledge that these out-sized flounders have a notoriously short season.

Local anglers find bay flounders available about nine months a year, but snowshoe fishing is best only from late April to the third week in May, possibly a week longer if the water temperature holds. May produces best, but some impatient fishermen jump the gun and try several weeks before. This is usually a hit-or-miss proposition and isn't recommended unless you have a "hot-spot", or know someone who does.

Snowshoes are no more difficult to catch than ordinary flounders, but there is one thing of importance the fisherman should bear in mind: they are extremely conscious of water temperature. Let the first warm promise of a seasonal change occur and these fish will seek cooler water. This change will certainly happen by May's end, so stick to the recommended times and you'll have an excellent chance of success.

Selecting tackle for bay flounders is no brain-strainer, but for the fisherman intending to catch snowshoes, a little extra thought is necessary. Foremost is where you intend fishing.

Fishermen have long associated snowshoes with Montauk, but there are other places that produce these large flounders. Therefore you should plan your tackle requirements for the area you expect to fish.

First, let's take a quick look at Montauk. A good deal of snowshoe fishing from here is done aboard party boats. Unless the fisherman is experienced, or fishing with someone who is, he will do better by first going aboard one of these boats. After he has made a trip or two, and has a few of the necessary skills tucked away safely under his belt, there shouldn't be a problem catching fish aboard a rented or private craft.

Author hefts a brace of snowshoes caught at Washington Shoal.

Granted, the small boat fisherman won't fish the far-offshore grounds, but many snowshoes are found within easy reach of the Lake Montauk jetties. The fisherman should seek information before he leaves. He's sure to be told the latest hot-spots and how to reach them.

A good place to try is nearby Washington Shoal. I've never been disappointed while fishing here in early May. The fisherman should bear in mind that codfish are found here, too, and for this reason it's smart to have a hand gaff along as well as a net.

Tackle requirements are simple. One important thing to remember is that the tackle must be heavier than that used in protected bays. It isn't necessary to bring codfishing equipment, but the fisherman will need a rod with backbone. A medium heavy boat rod and a good matching conventional reel filled with at least 150 yards of twenty pound mono line should fill the bill nicely.

Because cod, pollack and good-sized blackfish are always expected, some fishermen do use their heavier tackle when fishing these waters, but I've never had trouble with a medium heavy rod. The main requirement is that the rod be stiff enough to firmly sink the hook into the leather like jaws of a husky cod or pollack.

Rigging is simple too. As a rule Montauk tides require a heavy sinker. Some days a five to six ounce bank sinker will get by, and on others, you will find it necessary to use ten ounces or more to

hold bottom. There is no way of knowing this beforehand, so it's best to carry a supply of various weights. Don't forget that terminal tackle is apt to fall prey to rocks and other obstructions: carry a generous amount of sinkers and hooks. These can be purchased aboard party boats, but if small boat fishing you may well spoil your day by not being prepared.

Use the standard flounder hook known as the Chestertown, never larger than a number 4 or smaller than a number 6. While some fishermen feel the number 4 to be too large, I've never found it so. All flounders have small mouths and the snowshoe is no exception, but they can inhale a number 4 with ease. It's also heavy enough to bring up any cod you may hook.

It's best to use two hooks tied in tandem. To do this simply bend the snell of one hook at its middle, pass this bend through the knotted loop of the second hook and then place this second hook through the first bend. Pull tightly and secure against slipping with an overhand knot. This rig-up insures your hooks will always be on bottom where they must be if you want snowshoes. Attach directly to line two inches above the sinker, either by forming a double overhand loop in the line, or by using a medium sized swivel.

Cod and pollack can be considered bonus fish and it always pays to tie in a 5/0 to 6/0 Sproat on an 18 inch leader about 3½ feet above the sinker. If the tide is fast, some fishermen use a three to four foot leader. The choice is yours, but I've never had trouble catching fish with the shorter length.

The prime bait for Montauk snowshoes is the lip of the skimmer clam. Remove the black "string" and cut each strip in half, making four baits from an averaged sized skimmer. Loop thehook through the lip several times, being sure at least two inches is allowed to trail in the current. This is important. Don't bunch your bait if you want snowshoes.

Slice the meaty "foot" into two or more pieces and use on the top hook for cod and pollack. Slice this so part of the belly remains with the bait. This is what these large fish relish.

If weather conditions allow, drift over your selected area. Anchoring over the grounds will produce snowshoes if cracked mussels or broken skimmers are used for chum. If possible, try both methods and note which produces best.

If anchored, jig the bait in one foot sweeps, feeling cautiously for the weight of a feeding fish. When weight is felt, give the fish time to get the bait down before you strike. Again feel for the fish's weight and sink the hook with a quick lift of the rod.

Montauk isn't the only place that produces snowshoes. Gardiner's Bay and Little Peconic Bay harbor many large snowshoes. Promised Land, Tobaccolot Bay east of Gardiner's Island, the deeper spots around Cartwright Island, and westward to the east side of Robin's Island are prime grounds.

An excellent spot I didn't know about until recently is off the lighthouse on Cedar Point, easily reached from Sag Harbor. Drifting over the fifteen and twenty foot depths between the lighthouse and Shelter Island is the ticket here. This place, like most of those inshore, is strictly a mussel-only proposition. Sand and bloodworms will produce only average sized flounders in this area.

Cod are still encountered east of Gardiner's Island, but these are usually small, running three to four pounds. The fisherman equipped with a medium weight spinning rod, matching open faced reel and ten pound test mono is well able to handle them. Bank sinkers from three or four ounces are usually sufficient.

The further west one fishes, the less likelihood of finding cod, therefore light spinning equipment can be used for utmost enjoyment. Filling the spinning reel with six to eight pound test mono and using two ounce bank sinkers will afford the angler great sport.

Rigging should be the same as noted for Montauk, less the cod hook, but the Chestertown hook can be reduced to a size 8. This hook is strong enough to land any snowshoe that comes along.

You will find no better bait than fresh bank mussels. Note the word "fresh". Don't use steamed, salted, or par-boiled mussels and expect to work wonders. Use them right out of the shell. It's okay to open a supply the night before, but don't hold them longer than one day. If there's any "secret" to catching snowshoes, it's in using fresh bait exclusively.

The best way to put these on the hook is to run the hook through the mussel several times, then wrap it about the hook shank a few turns; it will stay on long enough to do the job.

If you'd rather anchor, be sure to search out the deepest holes in the area you intend fishing. Charts are invaluable for this and they are often available at fishing stations. Lacking this, ask for information on the best places to try.

Once anchored you should commence to get the chum going. The best chum is cracked mussels, tossed either uptide a few at a time, or placed in a weighted chum pot. If the latter method is used, fish as close as possible to the pot. Jigging should not be overlooked, it really pays off.

As you can see, it's easy to catch snowshoe flounders, Don't "threaten" to get out there one of these days, Do it. You'll be glad you did.

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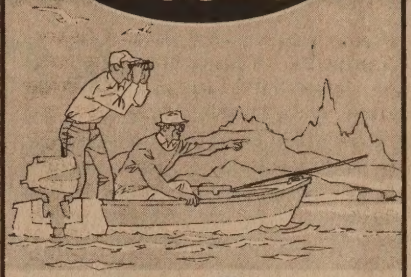

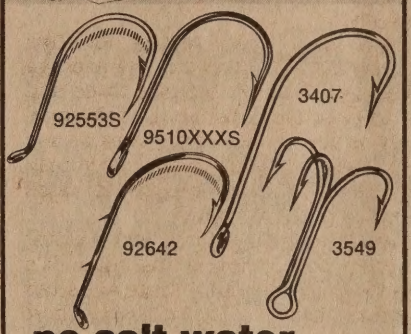

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Long Island's Marine Ecology: Part X

Let's Resolve What We Know & Do Not Know About Striped Bass

by Dr. William A. Muller

Year after year the same disagreements and arguments are rehashed about striped bass and more people are becoming confused about the problem.

We still receive letters from people wanting to know about the status of the striped bass bill in Albany. There is no striped bass bill pending before the State Legislature, but the belief that there is typifies the extent of misinformation about bass.

More fuel is added to the fire by individuals and groups on both sides of the issue. Statistics are easily rearranged to fit special needs and when the data is meager and incomplete the interpretation of it becomes more of a job for a roulette wheel than for a scientific discussion.

Compared to terrestrial organisms we know precious little about creatures, yet there are those among my colleagues who insist that we know a great deal about the striped bass. I find this hard to believe. To mention a few of the basic facts that we need to know but are lacking: an accurate estimate of each of the major populations especially the Hudson River and Chesapeake fish, accurate knowledge of the specie's spectrum of diseases, effect of elevated water temperature salinity, sunspots, PCB's, pesticides, and other environmental stresses on the growth, reproduction, and genetics of the striped bass. Granted, we do have fragments of information about some of these topics but the information that we do have does not gel together. In short, scientists and legislators are not in a position to make reliable decisions about marine environmental proposals.

The scientific debate rages on. We rely on tagging studies for the bulk of our information about the migration of fishes. Yet, tagging studies have several important limitations. It is necessary to tag a great many fish in order to obtain enough returns for the data to be reliable. Many tags are never returned even though the fish are recaptured because a sportsman won't take the time to do it or because a commercial fisherman doesn't want to give up certain information. Dr. Goodyear, working for the Atomic Energy Commission (NRC), using a statistical predictive mechanism concluded that 17 million striped bass in the Hudson River constituted the bulk of the harvestable fish in the middle Atlantic States. Yet, his work was discredited by some and disapproved of by others.

The results of tagging studies do not and will not satisfy our needs. Although some valid criticisms may be merited against Dr. Goodyear's work, it is nonetheless a valid piece of research and other marine biologists should be advised that their energies would be better spent in constructive criticisms rather than in discreditation. New avenues of research always require revision.

Sportfishermen are frequently found to be very narrow in their outlook as well. Whenever the discussion of striped bass ambles along, the chatter almost invariably turns to the poor quality of striped bass fishing in the Sound for the past few years. This is especially true for school sized fish. The anglers point out that they used to catch school fish all season and in great numbers. They argue that pollution and overharvesting have wiped out the fish. This is garbage! In terms of sewage and other nutritive pollutants the Sound is cleaner now than it has been in probably several hundred years. Why? Because each year we construct more and more secondary and tertiary sewage treatment plants and because local ordinances have been established to limit the introduction of phosphates and nitrates to our waterways.

School bass have indeed been in short supply in the Sound, but the reason has to do with natural forces rather than man induced effects. We have been experiencing a series of warm water years. That is, our winters have been mild and our summers fairly warm. Spring temperatures have come in late winter instead of spring and the result has been that spring and summer water temperatures have been far above normal. I measured the surface temperature in the Sound at almost 80 degrees on several occasions and would you believe 77 degrees at Montauk in early November. Plankton organisms grow best in cold water and the largest normal bloom occurs in February and March. Much of the small bait that the school bass need rely upon the abundant spring and summer plankton. No plankton, no bait and no bass. Where did they go you ask? And a very good question I might add. Did you know that residents of Maine lost fingers by the score to huge bluefish, a species that they are not used to catching? Did you know that they also caught a lot more bass than they are used to catching? Did you know that Seacoast Products, a principal harvester of mossbunker in the northeast, sent many boats to Maine waters because of the abundant bait in those waters?

Another persistent problem involves the manner in which fishing censuses are done. I have seen surveys taken at Montauk and frankly I wouldn't give you two cents for the reliability of the results. Why? The surveyors that I saw parked at the booth in the parking lot near the Montauk Lighthouse. It was the middle of the day and as the fishermen walked by the surveyor would ask what they caught. To begin with, novice fishermen are prone to lie because they do not want others knowing that they didn't catch very many, if any, bass, and the pros lie because they don't want the novices, or anybody else for that matter, knowing that they caught quite a few striped bass. Most of the better fishermen have spent the night on the beach and leave the sand to the "hopples" during the day. So I ask you, what kind of data is received from that kind of survey? Answer...very, very poor!

Furthermore, many "sportsmen" sell their fish and they are certainly not about to be truthful for a variety of reasons: from protecting a new hot spot to keeping the "wrong" knowledge out of the hands of the I.R.S.

Commercial fishermen are just as bad. If they make a killing during a lean period, they'll sell their catch very privately and although these fish may be reflected in the year's total, the time and location of the catch are likely to change.

It all adds up to a huge reservoir of inconsistent, invalid, and sometimes misleading data. Good luck all of you statistic hounds who stay up nights working and reworking this data until it proves the points that you wish to make.

Although we cannot be positively

sure, all indications point to the conclusion that there are plenty of striped bass. Several consecutive successful year classes during the late 1960's and early 1970's in the Chesapeake complex and in the Hudson River added millions of juveniles to the population. All of them have not been caught as yet or have they all died and went to "striped bass heaven."

Disease and predation as well as the harvesting of man has undoubtedly removed several million bass from the reservoir but there are many more still out there "doing their thing."

Along these lines, I have to take issue with some of the statistics offered to us in a recent communique received from Bob Ponds, Executive Secretary of Stripers Unlimited. Although we respect both the knowledge and efforts of Bob Ponds on behalf of the striped bass and marine anglers, I fear that he has become entangled in circular reasoning. It has indeed been authoratively reported that about 1 million striped bass are added to the fishery each year in the Chesapeake but it is neither authorative nor valid to suggest; "Historically the commercial catch has been considered to be half the fish available to the fishery." Does that mean that 8.5 million bass were taken commercially from the available estimated Hudson River population of 17 million each year? Or does that mean that 500,000 bass were harvested from the three year old survivors of the 1 million fish added originally three years ago?

I'll tell you what it means. It means nothing. The commercial catch will vary from year to year and the size is dependent on natural weather factors as well as the number of available fish. What little data we have would seem to indicate that on the average, 10-11 million pounds of striped bass are harvested commercially each year. Of course this does not include poundage sold quietly to restaurants and fish stores or for that matter to neighbors. Mr. Guardineer apologizes for the error in explaining that it was a mistake in interpreting the statistics in LIF issue #4.

So much for a slap at the commercial statistics. Now for the truth about the sportfishing catch. Sportfishermen positively catch more striped bass each year than commercial fishermen. Again, although it is true that one million bass are added to the fishery in Chesapeake Bay each year, it does not follow that the fish available to the sportsmen is equal to one million minus those harvested commercially. Those who would think this forget that there already exists a population of millions of bass from prior years. Although hard data does not exist, I would guess that the number of striped bass available along the Atlantic Coast must be between 30 and 50 million. I base this estimate on Dr. Goodyear's estimate of the Hudson River population at 17 million, I figure at least another 17 million from the Chesapeake, and then add a few odd millions from smaller river systems from which the sportsfishermen and the commercial fishermen can draw from.

Mr. Guardineer was correct. Although the figure of 73 million bass caught in 1970 by 783,000 anglers from Maine to North Carolina may include about 15 million taken on the west coast, it is still clear that the catch of 50 million taken in 1970 by east coast anglers greatly exceeds the commercial catch of 1 to 4 million bass per year. (This assumes an average weight of about 3-4 pounds which may not be valid but which would seem reasonable.)

It must also be stated that the 50 million bass caught by eastcoast anglers in 1970 also includes fish that were released because they were either sublegal or the anglers had no use for them.

Finally, I must agree with Mr. Guardineer that who catches how many striped bass is not the crucial issue. It is much more important to protect striped

(Continued on page 40.)

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Return to Quincy Bay

by Capt. Ron Onorato

I must say, that I was more excited now than I was on my first trip up to the fabled flounder grounds of Quincy, Mass. It was only a short year ago that I made my first trip up there, and the results were tremendous. It certainly lived up to its reputation as a flounder fisherman's paradise. When my fishing club made arrangements for a return engagement to Quincy, it took no coaxing on anyone's part to get me to go.

This time I was prepared. As is the case with any sort of fishing on new grounds, the first trip is almost an exploratory expedition whereby you gather locations, tides, winds, etc. on the region. After the first trip, I made mental notes on what was done by some of the better fishermen and prepared myself to use them on the next trip up.

Because of some problems we had in arranging a bus charter, the club was unable to get a date in late April, but had to settle for a day in mid-May. From what some of the other fellows told me it didn't matter when you go up there, the flounders run right through early June.

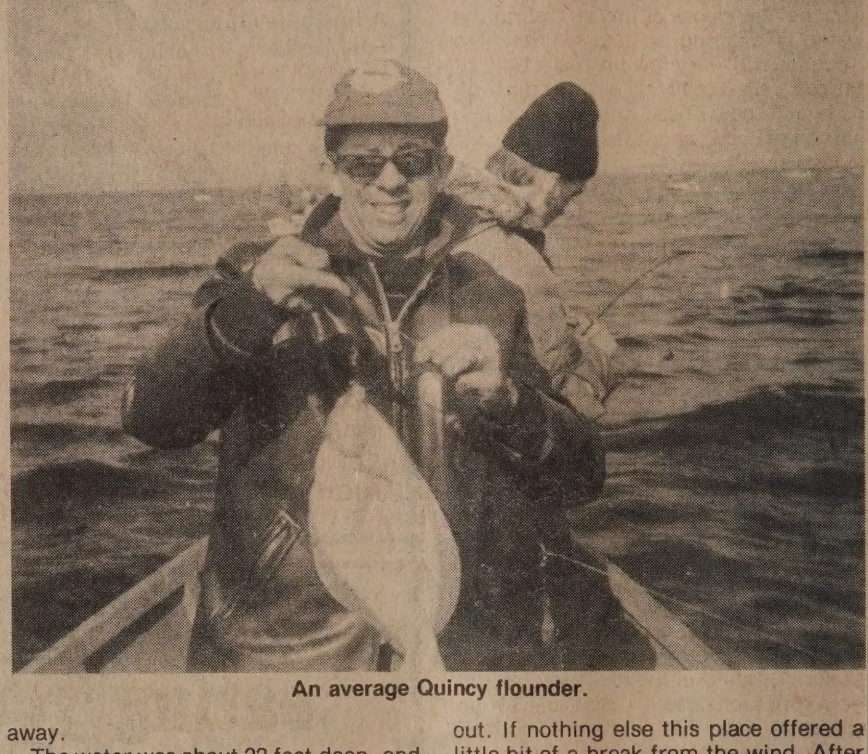
After the seemingly endless wait, the time arrived for the long jaunt up to Quincy. I must admit that 6 hours of riding on a bus is not the most pleasant experience there is, and I was very glad to see the familiar surroundings of Walter Hurley's boat station.

There were 3 fishermen in each boat, and in my group, I was the only one who had been here before. Therefore it was up to me to act as guide and captain for the day.

Despite the late date, the weather was miserable to say the least. It was marked contrast to the sunny, mild day I had enjoyed last spring. It was a cloudy, windy day and whitecaps dotted the bay as thickening clouds added the thread of rain. Fortunately I had brought my foul weather gear with me, while my two fishing partners didn't.

Last year the fishing was so good, that we ran out of worms by 12 noon, so this year I made it a point to buy two flats of worms. Having procurred our bait and life preservers, we loaded the boat and took off into the choppy waters of the bay.

I had done very well with both flounders and small cod in some of the deeper channels of the bay last time up, so I headed the boat towards them. I saw another boat anchored up and its occupants just pulled in a nice flounder, so I anchored the boat a short distance away.



An average Quincy flounder.

The water was about 22 feet deep, and there was a nice current running. No light spinning rods this time, as the 3 ounce sinkers flew off the bottom. We had to go to 6 ounce sinkers to keep the worms near the bottom. Chumming was completely out of the question, even with the chum pot.

Some five minutes later, Bob Barnett pulled in the first flounder of the day, a good two pound fish. John Esposito was next with a double header of smaller fish. I was waiting for my first bite. A flounder would be picked up every 5 minutes or so, but the fish were really scattered. After a half hour, we didn't have ten flounders. The sporadic pick prompted us to move to better grounds.

By now the breeze had freshened and the bay was very sloppy. Some of the members in our group decided that they had enough and pulled their boats back to the station for the day. We figured if there was some sort of lee where the boat could be anchored without too much trouble, at least we could fish a little while longer. There were 250 worms in the box, and I don't think we used a dozen of them.

All the way across the bay was a little island that we had passed on the way out. If nothing else this place offered a little bit of a break from the wind. After an extremely wet ride, we found about a dozen other boats in the sheltered side of the island, and every now and then, a flounder would be pulled in.

The water was fairly shallow about 13 or 14 feet deep, and it was a little easier to anchor here. Even in the lee though, the boats still swung around on the anchor pretty hectically. The current here wasn't too stiff, so we went back to the lighter rods with lighter sinkers.

Within a few minutes a pick of flounders developed. Nothing spectacular but enough to keep us on our toes. I figured now was the time to get some of that chum going. The boat was loaded with chum of all kinds. For the chum pot, there were several cans of fish flavored cat food mixed with some frozen bunker chum left over from last fall. A full pail of fresh mussels and a half bushel of fresh skimmer clams rounded out the chum.

The chum pot was loaded and sent to the bottom, while I cracked about 2 dozen mussels and scattered them about the boat. On top of that a half dozen skimmer clams were cracked and scattered around the boat. With all that chum, we figured that we would have every flounder in Quincy Bay swarming

under our boat.

It didn't quite work out that way. We picked flounders about as steadily now as we did before the chumming. One thing we noted was that all the flounders we caught had some bits of chum in them, and that for the most part they were a little larger than before, averaging about a pound and a half to two pounds. Every now and then a fish over two pounds was brought in, and the largest caught was a sizable 3½ pounds. So the chumming did work to a degree.

Another interesting thing we noted was the abundance of tiny codfish in the water. Last spring, we had cod from 4 to 8 pounds with very few tiny fish. Now all the cod were 6 to 10 inches in length with nothing larger. These were true cod and not tommy cod, and attacked our hooks vigorously.

Possibly because of the later date and somewhat warmer waters, the flounders hit the bait vigorously. Last time up, the flounders just sucked on the bait and a slow lift was required to hook the critters. This time all we had to do was give a quick lift any time a hit was felt and there was a fish. We all were using #6 flounder hooks baited with very long sections of worm bait. Those pound size flatties would eat a piece of worm 3 and 4 inches long. They would not have anything to do with fresh mussel bait and the red dyed skimmer clams did not draw so much as a hit. These flounders wanted worms and that was all. The codfish on the other hand were eating anything we put on the hook.

One by one the boats nearby started making their way back to the boat station. Because of the long ride back to New York there was a 1 P.M. curfew on the fishng time. Many of the fishermen left well before that so they could clean their fish before the big rush.

We were just about the last ones left when the curfew arrived all together too soon. The flounders were still coming up rather nicely, but we had to pull the plug. The wind was still howling as we started the trip back to the station.

A quick count of the fish revealed a fairly good day's catch. We had about 90 flounders with nothing less than a pound and there were about 20 fish over 2 pounds, with a 3 pound 10 ounce fish taking the honors. Compared to Quincy standards, only a fair day's fishing, and a far cry to the 200 fish we had caught on our prior trip.

Rather than wait on the long line to have our fish filleted, we went to work on them ourselves. With the three of us working, all the fish were taken care of in about an hour. The fillets were placed in plastic bags and then put on ice to keep them fresh for the long ride back home.

All in all with the weather being considered, I rated the trip as a good one. I learned a little more about Quincy Bay and I already have next spring's trip planned out.

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Oak Beach Flounder

by Herb Buch

Residents of Long Island have many places to fish because they are surrounded by water. Not all of them are open to the public, and many require the use of a boat, a beach buggy or lots of walking. Oak Beach has fishing practically where you park your car, and bait and refreshments are available.

Spring brings flounder out of the mud and all over Long Island. Wherever you fish, you can take a few, and it's a pleasure to enjoy the warm spring sun. For those who cannot wait, Oak Beach will produce a few flounders even in early March. The fishing improves tremendously in April and May and then drops off as the flounders leave the bay for their summer grounds, wherever they may be.

In the meantime blackfish have arrived and are satisfying their fans, with the fluke not far behind.

For those who are not familiar with the place, you take the Captree Causway across Great South Bay. Look for the exit to Captree State Park and take it but you go in the opposite direction, towards Jones Beach. After driving about one mile you take the turn to the left and reverse your direction of travel. In a few hundred feet you have the entrance to Oak Beach on your right. Keep to your right and you will enter a large parking area with the Oak Beach Inn in front of you and The Store to the left. Keep to your right and you will enter a large field. You may have to pay a parking fee at certain times of the season. Drive down to the Store end of the field and park there.

At the Store end of the field, there is a gate and a foot path that leads across the road to the bay side of the island. This is flounder country. Before you cross the road you may want to pick up worms and refreshments at The Store. The path is short and ends at a wooden dock with a small pier in the center. To the right is a shallow sandy beach, to the left is mud flat and marsh.

Most of the flounders are caught from the dock, the pier, and the sandy beach. The channel runs fairly close to shore here and when the flounders are biting the action can be very good. There are big cans for garbage, and two portable type enclosed toilets, of the type used at construction sites, back on the other side of the parking field. Please keep the place clean so as not to lose the privilege of fishing here.

The wooden dock on the bay.

The little pier on the bay.

Early birds usually take up all the space on the pier and the dock. Late comers head for the beach to the right. If you fish from the beach, the channel in front of you has a steep drop off. Do not be surprised if you hang up occasionally and lose a rig. Some regulars wear waders and stay in the water near the drop off. This requires special equipment to keep your bait, and to hold your rod while you unhook fish. If you are not prepared it means a long walk back to shore each time you need bait or catch a fish. I usually stay on shore and put my rod in a sand spike. That way I can relax until I get a bite.

If you are a blackfish fan, the shore on the other side of the road (across the parking field) is rocky in spots and boasts a short jetty. Both areas produce blacks, but the jetty is usually better. Once again, the early bird gets the best spots. Since crabs may not be available here for bait, you should bring your own. If you run out of hooks and sinkers you don't have to go far for a replacement, and if you catch a very large fish The Store is also an official weighing station

for the Jones Beach Contest. This side of the parking field is a part of Fire Island Inlet, and the current can be very fast. If you want to try for any fish that requires a long cast at this spot plan on fishing during slack water. In case you are not familiar with the area, slack tide is usually at least two hours after the high or low water as printed on the tables.

Fluke show up in late May and are around until September. The edge of the drop off on the bay side can be very productive at times and it is not unusual to see fishermen in bathing trunks with a net hanging from their belts to land the fluke. Fluke are also present on the inlet side. For fluke you will need fresh or frozen spearing or sand eels or live killies. This fish likes a lively, or at least a moving bait, so be prepared to work at your fishing unless you have a batch of lively killies. Killies, fished on a small hook with a long light leader, will often furnish enough activity to attract a few fluke.

A long leader seems to be a necessity for successful fluke fishing. Do not try to catch them with the ordinary hooks snelled for other fish. I am always amazed at the number of fishermen who believe that they can use the same hook and rig for all fish. They just do not associate this with their lack of success.

Of course, there are other fish that will show up either on the bay or inlet sides.

The rocks on the inlet side.

Occasional weakfish were taken on flounder or flulke rigs as well as on Salty Dog's. Sea Robins can run in numbers. If nothing else is around, keep a few and clean them, they are good eating. In the fall, small seabass and kingfish of assorted sizes were taken on the inlet side. When blowfish were abundant, they were regular residents.

If you only have a few hours to fish, Oak Beach is convenient and often produces fish. Because there are two areas to fish you can usually move to get the wind at your back, so that even on a windy day you can be comfortable. The best things about fishing are the fresh air, sun and the many nice people that you meet. If you have that in mind, you will always have a good day at Oak Beach.

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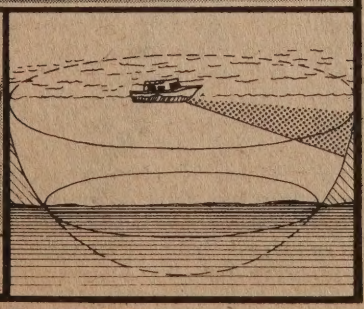

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The World's Greatest Lure

Part One

Imagine yourself a play-thing of the Gods. They desire to test mans ability to endure for their sport. As a fisherman, they think it poetic to set you adrift at sea in a small boat. To make it interesting, they allow you some basics to survive on. Water, a sun hat, and one fishing lure of your choice. Any God betting against you would lose a lot of nectar, if you choose a diamond jig.

The diamond jig is the best fishing lure ever conceived. Nothing else will take such a variety of fish. Not just for a season, but year after year. From bluefin tuna to porgies, from south of the border to the Fjords or Norway, they are constantly proving their worth. Always catching. A fisherman without a diamond jig amongst his tackle is like a rifleman without bullets.

Do you remember an old forties movie (maybe from the late show) called "Lifeboat?" Talulah Bankhead starred along with John Hodiak and Walter Slezak. A steamer torpedoed by a German sub sank and the survivors put out to sea in a lifeboat. After several days without food, Miss Bankhead (dressed in mink) willingly gave up her diamond bracelet to John Hodiak for a lure to catch fish. It worked. No sooner did the $40,000 bracelet slip beneath the boat, than a fish gulped it in. So there! If you don't believe me, I am sure you believe in Hollywood.

In the past ten years, the diamond jig has really come into power. Ever since we lost the bottom fish in our area, and more fishermen went to the top. Bluefish and bass were the order of the day. Subsequently more jigs are being used. For good reason too, the damned thing works.

When I first began fishing, the word "diamond jig" was hardly used. Just about everybody called it a "mackerel jig". The lure was used mostly on mackerel but even then not to its full advantage. Any head boat captain would not dream to try to catch Boston mackerel without chumming up the water with bunker chum. Those days are past. Diamond jigs don't need any help. When used properly, they will do just fine. Head boats now take people out for macks, bluefish, weaks and even bass, without chumming. Strictly diamond jigs.

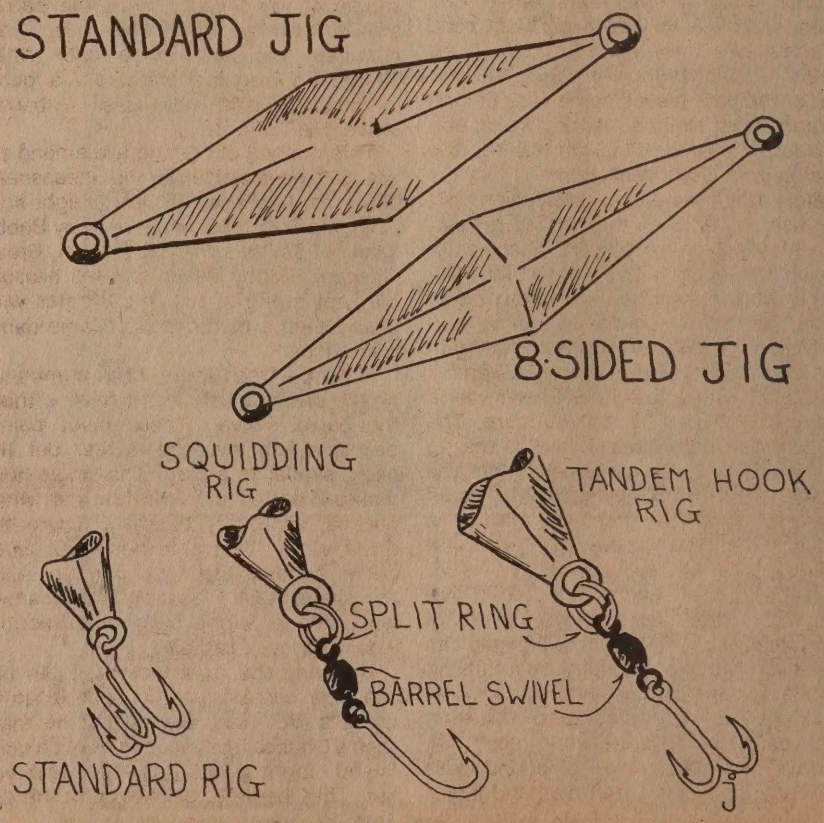
Jigs also work well for bottom species too. Codfish, porgies, seabass, some fluke, almost anything swimming. As long as these fish are chasing bait, they should hit a jig. Some conditions are better than others. Sunlight, rocky bottom, deep water and strong tides are advantageous.

Unfortunately, skill is needed to create the proper action required to make a jig work. Without the correct movements, the fish will see the jig for what it is. A hunk of shining metal. Like fishing any lure the right action is needed. I find it amazing that so many so called "good fishermen" cannot work the jig correctly.

The following paragraphs will give you a few tips on what the hell you are doing wrong.

First, and most important, the correct tackle. Here, once again, I find spinning a disadvantage for this kind of fishing. No matter how handy you consider yourself with a spinning rod, you could never get complete satisfaction out of your diamond jig. Conventional tackle is a must! The methods of use will prove my point.

A good rod for jig fishing should have a reasonably stout tip. I do not mean a cue stick. The average diamond jig is about 4 ounces and requires a rod with backbone. Between 6 and 8 feet should be long enough. One piece rods are the best. They are lighter and put more action (right down to the butt) into the rod. Diamond jigging requires the need for a quick reflex in setting the hook. A soft tip, or too light a rod, would hinder



your ability to 'nail' a quick bite.

What reel to use? I can only recommend what **I** use, or **know of**. My favorite is the Penn Squidder. Not the 140, but the 145. This reel will handle the bass and bluefish all right, up to a limit. If you are into endless amounts of big blues, I would recommend the Penn 3/0 fast retrieve, number 112H. The Penn Jigmaster, with the 4 to 1 retrieve does not hold up. So why buy it? The size is the same as 3/0 and almost as heavy. Ambassadeur makes a 4 to 1 that shifts down to 2 to 1, when you have a fish on. It costs a hellofa lot of money and does not stand up. At least mine didn't! It eventually was chucked overboard, admist a barrage of four letter beauties. One thing to keep in mind, never use any larger tackle than you have to. Always match the reel to the rod. Don't put a Panzi tank on a fly rod, or a yo-yo on a broom stick.

Which brings me to another thought concerning reels and tackle. Find a local tackle dealer in your area, or where you fish, who repairs reels and builds or repairs rods. Deal with **this** man. Local tackle shops depend on repeat business and will usually be helpful. Although you may save a few bucks at discount stores, you have no recourse when trouble comes along, or no one for repair. A good tackle man will make sure your reel is in fishing condition before it leaves the shop.

Last summer I was sitting in Hegner's Tackle Shop in Montauk, when two fellows walked in with a problem reel. The reel was a new Penn 3/0, No, it was 112H. Unknowingly, they took the reel out of the box, placed some wire line on it and went trolling. After two doubl-header bluefish on the umbrella rig, the reel seized. Penn reels come out of the factory lubed to prevent corrosion, not for fishing. Without the needed grease, the pinion gear froze solid. The cost of repair was about a five dollar bill, most likely what they saved when buying it. Plus, the loss of some solid fishing.

Match up your rod and your reel with the correct line. On the Penn Squidder I use a 20 pound test line. There was a time when I used 30, but no more. The 20 will get more bites. It allows the jig more freedom of movement. On the bigger reel I use 30. Why anyone would want to use anything heavier than 30 is beyond me. Thirty pound test will still work well for jigs about 6 ounces. As for strength, it could anchor the boat. If fish ing for a living never go over 30 pound test. Always use the lightest line you can get away with—don't worry about losing tackle. Fishing with heavy line to save on tackle is like the old metaphor "Cutting off your nose to spite your face". At todays food value, one 10 pound bass will pay for a half dozen diamond jigs.

Never use a wire leader, unless the bluefish are biting out the bottom of the boat. Even then they may not hit the lure. Always, at least, start without a wire leader. Then if you switch to one, you will know if it hurts the fishing. Once skilled in its use, you will lose less jigs. Tie the lure directly to the 30 pound test line, on 20 you may want a piece of leader material. Put about 2 feet of 30 pound test mono and join both lines with a small black barrel swivel.

Diamond jigs come in many weights and sizes. The word itself 'diamond' does not come from the shine of the lure, but from its faceted surface. All diamond jigs today have a four sided finish which gives you four sides to reflect sunlight. (Diamond jigs never work in the black of night.) What is even better, but is no longer manufactured, is an 8 sided jig. An 8 sided jig has the basic 4 sides in length, but each side is broken up with a line across the center of the length, or around the middle. Eight sides insure you of more fish.

The most commonly sold jigs in this area are the Bridgeport, Point Jude and the new AVA-27. Point Jude jigs tend to look a little rough at times, but have a plate job that holds up. They also have the A-27 which is one sensational jig. The AVA-27, which is very similar to the A-27, and although I have never used one, they appear to be a well made jig. Also, AVA Tackle is the first manufacturer who had the sense to build the barrel swivel into the jig. I make my own jigs and started the same thing a couple of years back. With the barrel swivel already onto the eye, you eliminate the need of a split ring. Bridgeport also manufacturers a good diamond jig that now uses a barrel swivel built into it.

This method of rigging a diamond jig seems to have started in the Sheepshead Bay area. I believe it finally caught hold in Montauk in 1968, when used by Bobby Maier of Smitty's Fishing Station, Broad Channel. Bobby fished the fall season. He kept trying to sink his Whaler with bass, using a diamond jig. Came damn close, too!

Having a free turning hook eliminates all the pivots a fish might have without the barrel swivel. These pivot points permit a fish leverage to tear out the hook, similar to a plug. The single hook makes it easier to handle the fish when hooked, especially bluefish. There are times when the treble hook will catch better. I shall explain that later on. Also, the single hook rigged in this manner will have a slight swimming motion, when retrieved rapidly.

Knowing the right weight jig to use can only come from the experience of using it. All I can say is that no more than a 6 ounce jig is needed here on Long Island. Eight ounce jigs only wear you out. They begin to get heavy as the day goes on.

To be continued next week.

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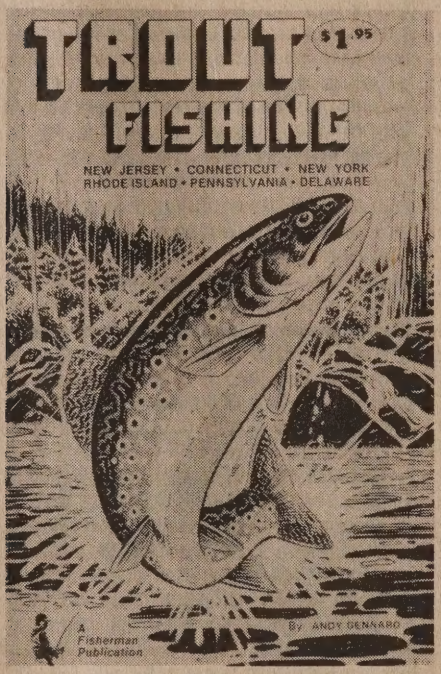

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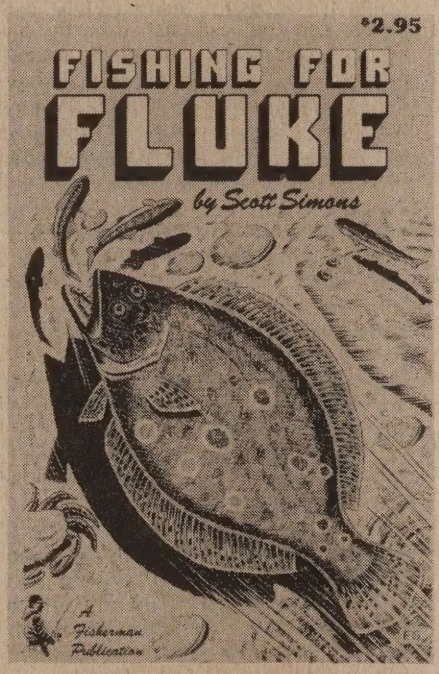

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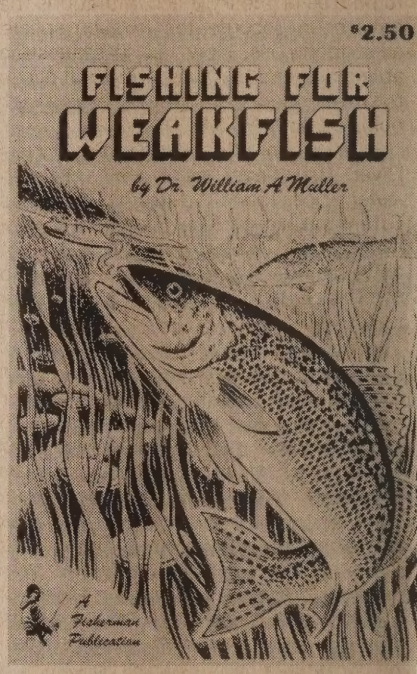

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CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

One of the hottest subjects among fishermen lately has been the ban on commercial fishing in the Hudson River due to the PCB problem. This ban doesn't apply to shad netting, one of the major forms of commercial fishing practiced in the Hudson. Shad live at sea and only return to their native rivers in the spring to spawn. They are presumed to be free of the PCB accumulations that have been documented in such species as striped bass. However, it's questionable as to whether the public will accept even the shad from waters presumably polluted with PCB's.

Due to pollution problems, Hudson River fish have traditionally brought lower prices than those from other areas. Often the price was only half that for fish from cleaner waters and this, undoubtably, resulted in a relatively low level of commercial fishing in the river. Indeed all (or virtually all) of the commercials on the river are part timers.

A recent food article in The News, by Ella Elvin, quoted Joseph Ledner, National Marine Fisheries Service representative, as saying that striped bass and other species from the Hudson have been inedible for years, tasting of oil and kerosene. There's some truth to that statement, but I'm sure Bob Boyle, Pete Barrett, and other Hudson advocates would like to amend it considerably. Fish do pick up bad tastes from the waters they live in. However, most stripers come from fairly clean portions of the river and are quite edible. In order to eliminate the possibility of a particular fish having an oily taste, it's best to fillet stripers from the river and then cut out the dark meat along the centerline. This is the oily portion of the fish which concentrates such tastes.

It's truly a shame that the PCB problem had to explode upon the Hudson at the very time that anti-pollution efforts have made it a living, and livable river once again. Water quality has improved considerably and many species of fish and shellfish are making a comeback. Yet, people now look at the river in fear once again, all because of a persistant man made pollutant. My feeling is that, despite all the fuss, the angler should not hesitate to fish the Hudson, or even hesitate to eat the fish he catches (though I'd stay away from oil species, such as eels, that may concentrate very large quantities of PCB's.)

At this time no one knows just what level of PCB's is harmful. As in the mercury flap of the a few years ago, arbitrary standards have been set at very low levels for safety sake. The mercury problem in fish was natural and not harmful. Unfortunately, PCB's aren't natural and we know that they can be very deadly in large quantities. It will probably be many years before safe levels can be established with any certainty and, in light of the uncertainties involved, the closure of the commercial fishery is probably justified. While it would be improper to sell fish that may be even marginally tainted, an occasional meal of your own fish surely won't be of any harm.

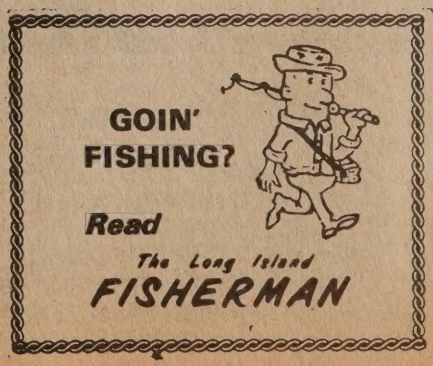
The really significant problem involved with the PCB levels and closure of the Hudson River fishery hasn't been faced up to by either state or federal officials as yet. We know from tagging studies that most Hudson stripers leave the river and spend the period from spring through fall in other waters. Most appear to populate the waters of northern New Jersey, western Long Island Sound, and the south shore of Long Island (east to Fire Island). Yet some Hudson bass migrate over much greater ranges and there is no practical way to tell the origin of any given fish. Therefore, if Hudson stripers are tainted with PCB's, how can we justify commercial fishing for stripers anywhere within the migratory range?

Some biologists insist that the Hudson contributes little to the migratory stocks of striped bass. On the other hand, the Goodyear study for the AEC indicated that the Hudson is the major contributor of migrating fish. In either case we know that Hudson bass are mixed in with those from other areas throughout the coast and the problem must be faced up to.

Save Our Stripers, Inc., frustrated in its efforts to get gamefish status for the striper by legislative maneuvering, is pushing for resolution of this dilemma. Taking stripers off the market, even temporarily, would undoubtably discourage fishing for them and have a short term negative effect on resort areas, charter boats, tackle shops, and tackle manufacturers. However, the long term effect may be beneficial. The mercury problem caused a great deal of confusion but turned out well in some cases. Longlining had reduced swordfish populations to very low levels prior to the mercury scare. However, with sale of the fish prohibited for a few years, the fish seem to be coming back and were more abundant last year than any time since the fifties.

An even more dramatic example occured in Lake Erie. It was only a few years ago that the big lake was written off as hopelessly polluted and virtually fishless. Then the mercury scare came along and that appeared to put the proverbial nail in the coffin. Most people still think that Lake Erie is "dead", but that's far from the truth. The mercury scare resulted in a ban on commercial fishing and, that, plus continuing pollution abatement efforts, had led to an amazing revival of the fishery. Walleyes have made a great comeback and both yellow perch and smallmouth bass are in good shape. Charter and party boats are doing a booming business on a lake that now has the best "natural" fishery of any of the Great Lakes (the salmon fishery in Lake Michigan is "put and take").

General Electric is still releasing a tiny amount of PCB's into the Hudson, but the era of the PCB is quickly coming to an end. For some time now they've been authorized only for use in closed cycle systems and it's likely that they'll be banned completely in the near future. Nevertheless, PCB's are already well distributed in the environment and will plague us for many years to come. Just what effect it will have on the striped bass isn't certain, but if the PCB problem takes some pressure off that rapidly declining species, it may prove a blessing to the bass.



TEST YOUR OCEAN "I.Q."!

BY FRED GUARDINEER

ANSWERS BELOW

① THE LOBSTER SHEDS ITS SHELL BECAUSE IT GETS WORN OUT.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

② THE BLUE WHALE, LARGEST ANIMAL IN THE WORLD HAS NO TEETH.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

③ A SHARK'S BODY IS COVERED WITH TEETH.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

④ THE UNITED STATES CATCHES MORE FISH THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

⑤ MT. EVEREST, IN THE HIMALAYAS, IS THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

⑥ THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IS GROWING IN SIZE.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

DOLORES K.

1 - *FALSE* - THE LOBSTER OUTGROWS ITS EXOSKELETON SHELL WHICH MUST BE SHED TO ALLOW FOR EXPANSION. 2 - *TRUE* - THE 100 FT. BLUE WHALE FILTERS PLANKTON THROUGH FINE SHEETS OF BALEEN TISSUE IN ITS MOUTH. 3 - *TRUE* - EACH SHARK SCALE IS MADE OF ENAMEL AND DENTIN JUST AS ARE ITS TEETH. 4 - *FALSE* - THE U.S. RANKS SIXTH BEHIND PERU, JAPAN, RUSSIA, RED CHINA AND NORWAY. 5 - *FALSE* - THE ISLAND OF GUAM IN THE PACIFIC RISES 35,800 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR. MT. EVEREST IS ONLY 29,028 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL. 6 - *TRUE* - NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE ARE BEING PUSHED APART BY THE EXTRUSION OF LAVA AT THE MID-ATLANTIC RIDGE, MAKING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN GROW IN SIZE.

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Les Beehan of the **Peconic Queen III** called us after arriving back from last week's Nantucket Wreck Trip, saying that dur to the sudden worsening of the weather and the winds once out on the grounds, they could only get in two hours of good solid fishing. Though the forecast was for 10 to 15 mph winds, it blew at 30 mph all day, gusting to 45, causing the trip to return early. Lester said that they fished the Pennsylvania Wreck, a World War II tanker which rests on the bottom. The pool was taken by fifteen year old Peter Wallace Jr. who fished with his father. Young Pete grabbed the $600 pool with a 55 pound cod. He also had 20 other cod. A Mr. Auila of Perth Amboy New Jersey nailed a 48 pounder for the second prize. The weather was really horrible and Les says to pass the message on to all of you that when coming on one of these offshore wreck trips, you are always taking a gamble on the weather, and that you should be prepared to take this gamble as the weather reports are often wrong. Les says to come with sea sick pills and warm clothing as conditions can change rapidly. The Queen's next trip will be May 23rd, Sunday night leaving at 10 P.M. and returning Monday at 10 P.M.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reports that the codfishing has been very good all week long, including Saturday and Sunday. The winds did not hit the Montauk area until the Star was

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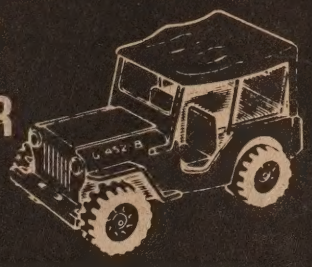

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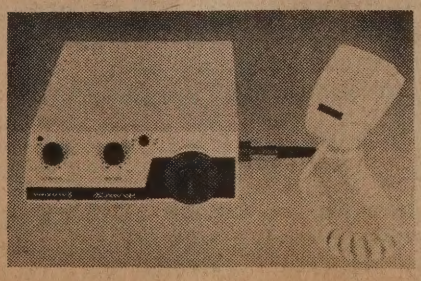

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well on its way into port after a very good days fishing with a lot of big green fish. On Saturday, Ozone Park sharpshooter Tony Passawawte bagged a 52 pound cod for the pool.

Captain Homelsky of the **Cherokee** called to say that he will be back in Montauk soon after a winter's fishing in Florida and that he will be ready to start running his charters the first week of June. Murray will be bringing the new 40 foot **Cherokee** into Montauk. It sports twin diesels, radar, loran, and 3 radios, fish finder etc. It also has an exceptionally large cockpit, says Murray for anglers comfort.

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported excellent fishing almost every day that the weather has been halfway decent. Sunday was a real bonanza on the open bottom south of Block Island chumming with clam shells. Nine anglers took 127 cod ranging from 15 to 55 pounds with several in the 30 pound class. Young Doug Lee took the 55 pounder, which was part of a double-header. The other fish was about 20 pounds, a heavy catch by any standard.

Captain John DeMaio called to tell us that the cod haven't moved in under the light as yet, but should shortly when the baitfisy that is now offshore moves in closer. John did manage to locate 13 cod on the southside of the Point, however. The fish ranged from 4 to 35 pounds and weighed a total of 120 pounds, gutted, an excellent score for any individual angler.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** has been fishing Block Island with very good results. On Saturday most everyone aboard had fish but Sunday was much better. Fred Legler of Bellrose took 165 pounds of cod by himself. Fish in the 20 to 30 pound range were numerous.

PROMISED LAND

With the weather being poor to miserable all week the fishing was fair to poor said Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station**. Nepague Harbor is still producing flounder of ¾ to 2 pounds mostly on mussels used as bait and chum. The average fish is from 1¼ to 1½ pounds. Catches were under 20 per boat but one came in with 35.

SAG HARBOR

Noyac Marina called to say that the Alberts family, Mike Sr., and Jr., Joe and John all of Brooklyn, fished the Monastery Sunday morning prior to the wind storm, and boated 18 flounder with a total weight of 18 pounds, two of which went over 2 pounds. The fishing in that area is very good with good size fish, and all you need do is select a day with fairly good weather.

HAMPTON BAYS

Skipper's Fishing Station reports buoy 9 and 17 and the Canal producing well for boats that are working hard. A 1 and 2 pound weakfish were taken on flounder rigs just east of the canal.

George Hughes of Hampton Bays went out to the 100 foot line where a 44 and ¾ pound cod was waiting for him along with a few other cod and some mackerel.

Captain Clark Bellows Jr. of the **Captain Clark Boats** told us that fishing in Sunday's wind was slow, but Saturday was very good at the west end of Flanders Bay off Jamesport. The flounder averaged a good 1½ pounds and range upwards to 2 pounds. Eleven anglers took 130 fish, and incoming water has been by far the best. Red dyed clams and mussel take turns being the hot bait of the day.

MORICHES BAY

Seatuck Cove Marina reports that flounder fishing was very good on Saturday, with 24-60 flatties per boat. The fish are larger than in previous years with a lot over 1½ pounds. Charles and Leo Hoffman of Long Island boated a tub full on bloodworms and mussel chum northwest of buoy 42 on incoming tide.

Moriches Bait and Tackle said the fishing was good to the east and to the west but nothing to brag about in between. To the east it was buoy 42 and in the west it was the buoys 12 and 14 by Smith Point Bridge. Fish range from ½ to 1½ pounds with ¾ being average. Worms with mussel chum works well. The usual springtime rumors of striped bass being caught along the beach are being heard but until I see the fish I must be skeptical.

Bob Grunseich, Rudy Verderber and Gary Grunseich of Glendale with the 63 flounder they caught while fishing north of bouy 42 on bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

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WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports very good flounder fishing all week, slowing Saturday and dying on Sunday. Incoming water was best with worms and chumming just northwest of buoy 29, Timber Point and off the Navy Dock. Deep holes are working too. Weakfish in the nets.

EAST ISLIP

Don at **Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle** says that there is fair to good action off the Captree Piers and off the East Islip Beach, areas of buoy 2 and Heckscher for fish up to 1½ pounds. Buoy 4 at Heckscher should be fished with bloodworms and mussel chum on all moving tides.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports that boats fishing the Sore Thumb area are doing it to the tune of 40 flounder per man and these fish are fat and running 1 to 1¼ pounds. Sunday was a monster weather wise. Good flounder catches are being made on the north side of **The Store** when the weather is decent. Ocean Beach Gill Netters report lots of weakfish in that area, so that should be the next big thing inshore.

CAPTREE

Captain Neil of the **Lady Ann** says that flounder fishing picked up this week with Saturday's average catch 15 fish per man high-hook being 28 flounder. Sunday the average dipped to 10-12 flounder per man, hi-hook was 20 fish. These creatures are running 1 to 1¼ pounds and Neil says are everywhere from East up to the Sore Thumb. Flood tides are working best with worm and clam for bait.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** told us that flounder fishing has been tough lately. While Thursday was good, Friday, Saturday and Sunday were only poor to fair. Best areas have been West Channel, Snakehill Channel and the Sore Thumb. The fish always have their bellies full, so there is plenty of food around, which may be the problem. Both tides produce, but incoming is best. George also heard an unconfirmed report of hook and line weakfish.

Capt. Carl Bauer of the **Capt. Whittaker** confirmed the so-so flounder activity of late due to an abundance of highwinds. Average catches are 6 to 12 per man and the fish are spread out from the Sore Thumb to Patchogue. Incoming water has been best.

BABYLON

Walter at **Babylon Fishing Station** says that Sunday was good flounder fishing in the bay in front of the pool, off the Old Sea Plane Base, and in the State Channel south of Grass Island. Fish ran from ¾ to 1¼ pounds and were fat. Boas were bringing in 15 to 40 per boat on bloodworms with mussel chum.

Hi-Hook Fishing Station tells us that on Friday Charlie Griffin took 36 nice fat flounder while fishing south of Grass Island with worms and corn chum. Catches were spotty over the weekend. On Thursday 4 boats were out and they averaged 15 to 20 per boat up to 1½ pounds, both tides.

LINDENHURST

Captain Bob Fischer of the **Lazy Day II** called to say that he will be booking chartes for the 4th of July for both day and evening trips. Bob had a flounder charter out on Friday and they did a job fishing local Lindenhurst and Amityville waters.

Bullet skipper Jay Porter asked us to inform our readers who are not familiar with tile fish, that they averaged 20 pounds and live roughly 100 miles offshore in 450 feet water. 80 pound class tackle is ideal with 40 pound wire spooled on a 4/0 reel with a 16 ounce sinker and 9/0 hook, and that they taste like lobster. Ready?

Dukes Bait and Tackle tells us that this week should be a good one for fishing with the spring weather, by the time you read this, warming up the air and water, provided the winds subside. Dickerson's Channel produced on Saturday and Sunday's with worms and mussel chum for 1 happy angler, who took roughly 25 fish both Saturday and Sunday mornings. There are rumors of weakfish inside and outside. The mackerel should be close and caught in good numbers this weekend as they are moving up quickly. Duke says that he has received his Lupo stock for the season, including the new Allmightly Squid which he has in 3 sizes and 2 colors.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells of a few weaks taken off Democratic Point in Ocean Beach on shrimp lures. The flounder fishing was good up through Friday off Copaigue at Howells Point, the Amityville cut and Squaw Island, but then the wind fouled things up for the weekend. Jonas says that the gill netters have been getting a few bass in the nets. Ready?

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells us that the flounder fishing is good, weather permitting, at Squaw and West Island, Florence Beach, Four Corners and west of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge. Fish are ¾ to 1¼ pounds and chum if

you can and if you want to catch fish. Weakfish rumors.

Salice Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing from ¾ to 2 pounds at Squaw Island, 3rd Wantagh and the Massapequa on worm and mussel baits and mussel chum. Catches were very good till Sunday and ran 12-30 per skiff.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that all week long except for the weekend, some good flounder catches were brought in for those who knew how to fish and who are willing to make a lot of drops. 40 to 50 fish for these skiffs were not unusual, and you must chum. Locations keep changing in this wierd weather and you've got to hunt for the fish. The S-turn was a producer this past week and fish were taken averaging a half to 1¼ pounds.

LIF staffer (Bad Winds) **Miller** bounce around the Merrick and Freeport bay and channel areas on Sunday with the seagoing accountant, the infamous G. Korn as ballast. It was a touch pick all day, with a 20 fish total. Hottest spot found after many drops was the area immediately off Ed's Fishing and Scotty's Fishing Station in Reynold's Channel. The falling tide plus worms and mussel chum were employed.

Ed Hanley and Lou Colon caught these flounder in Massapequa Cove on clams and bloodworms in a little over 2 hours. Subscriber Club Photo.

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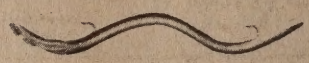

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Anthony's Fishing Station reports fair to good flounder fishing during the week, 15 to 18 flatties per boat when the weather was decent, running ¾ to 1¼ pounds on bloodworms and mussel chum. Short Beach, Swift Creek, Funday Bay and the State Channel and areas close in produced.

Roy at **Mako Marina** tells us that Joe Long and Phil Kaminsky took 110 flounder up to 1¼ pounds on Friday fishing Swift Creek through Merrick Bay on an ebbing tide with clam and no chum.

Frank's Marina tells us that Hi-flats drain and the Merrick hole were producing nice catches Wednesday and Thursday for his skiffs on bloodworm and clam with mussel chum.

Captain Richie of **The Starstream II** reports very good mackerel fishing on Saturday, to the tune of 20 to 50 big bostons per man, off the Jersey coast. Sunday was poor due to the high wind velocity encountered gusting to 40 mph. Thursday was good mackerel action, ten to 20 mackerel per man. Richie says this is a good showing for so early in the mackerel season.

The **Aloma II** averaged 2 to 10 flounder per man on Saturday which Captain Spider Schmidt considered to be only fair. By the time you read this the **Aloma II** will have switched over to mackerel sailing 7 A.M. Captain John on the **Aloma** has been doing a fair job on

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blackfish, averaging 6 to 8 per man up to 5 pounds with a few mackerel and ling adding zest to each trip.

The **Captain Al** has been doing its flounder thing with Saturday and Sunday working best with combination worm over mussel baits. Saturday, hi-hook was 18 and Sunday hi-hook was 15, all real fat fish. Monday through Friday, said Billy Lindroth, north winds brought in cold bottom water which "cooled things off." Swift, Seadog and Long Creeks worked best. Average catches were 10 to 12 fish topping off at 1½ pounds.

The charterboat **Bluefin** on Saturday had the Paris Auto Repair of Manhattan out. Captain Sy Karlin said the pick was very slow all day and they bounced all over the area. Late in the afternoon Swift Creek produced 60 fish in 2 hours. Hi-hook with 12 keepers was Ted Gollatz Jr. Chumming with mussel and corn and mussel and worm baits on a flood tide

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Large Night Charters Available
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well. At present, the engines are being installed in Sy's new boat which is being built in Florida and it should be up here in May, on schedule.

Miss Freeport has been staying on top of the flounder all week and weekend and getting good catches, weather permitting.

Dave Piggot of the **Lucky Strike III** in Freeport took his small boat over to the north shore. With his wife Terry and their two children they had 6 flounders per person. They used sandworms to take these ½ to ¾ lb. fish.

POINT LOOKOUT

Sunday's flounder fishing was so-so according to Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station**. Everyone was in by 2 P.M. because of the wind. Thursday to Saturday was a different story as most of the spots were moving fish. Funday Bay and Middle Creek were two of the best. Worms, musels and clams produce flounder in that order. A flounder fisherman caught a few very small blackfish on clam bait. He took them at the jetty.

The **Marie III** had the Joe's Anglers Fishing Clug out on Sunday. They fished Andy's secret spot in Reynold's Channel. Pool fish was 1¼ pounds with the others going from ½ to 1 pound. Although they quit at 1 P.M. the catch totaled over 100 fish most of which were caught in a short but hectic time prior to quitting.

ISLAND PARK

Beckman's Tackle in Lynbrook said the flounder fishing has been excellent. Reynolds Channel at buoy 9, Swift Creek and Duck Point are all good choices. Charlie said that those who chum increase the catch from 3 to 4 times. Striped bass reports at present have come from someone who heard about somebody catching bass someplace.

The **Ginnie Mae** reports the flounder fishing over the weekend was spotty due to the turbulence on the bottom and the strong winds. Even so, Captain Bill found fish for his fares. Bill has now switched over to mackerel and is sailing every day at 7 A.M. for the bostons. He anticipates a very good mackerel season.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Captain Ronnie Lepper informs us that there are rumors of small bass being taken in nets off Jones and Jersey, so can the season be far away, we ask. We remind you that the Atlantic Beach Charter and Guide Boat Fleet stands ready and available to meet all of your chartering needs for the coming season. See their ad in LIF.

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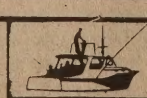

Blues (Day & Nite)
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6 Pass. Charter Boat

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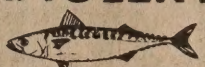
POINT LOOKOUT MARINA
ANGLER II



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7 A.M. Daily
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$7 for Sr. Citizens Weekdays
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Small, Large, Extra Large Charters
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33' Egg Harbor Sportfisherman
ALL VARIETIES OF FISHING
—6 PASSENGER LIMIT—
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50' OPEN BOAT • TACKLE AVAILABLE
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JAMAICA BAY

Jon at **Cross Bay Rod and Gun Shop** said the flounder fishing is better. There are more flounder being taken and more spots are starting to come alive. North and South Channel bridges and the Silver Hole along with many creeks all have flounder now. The fish are ½ to ¾ of a pound and are taken on worm and mussel with some hitting clam bait. There have been signs of black fish off the Rockaway and Atlantic Beaches but no catches at present. A few striped bass have been taken on worms here and

CAPTREE

Three of CAPTREE's Most Spacious, Luxurious, Fastest!

CAPT. JOSEPH FLEET

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Flounder • Weaks • Fluke • Mackerel

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Full Day Trip $12 PER HEAD

(6 Man Limit)

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Booking 1976 Season Now!

Capt. SCOTTY FLOUNDER

6AM SAT. & SUN.

7AM WEEKDAYS

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Women & Children Accommodated

CAPTREE MO-9-2256 MO-9-0627

Captree's Finest & Newest

NEW **JIB VI V**

Starting Sat., Feb. 28

FLOUNDER 7AM

FLOUNDER 8AM

Best In Family Fishing—Helpful Mates Instructions For Beginners

BABYLON

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BABYLON—*42' Walkaround Charterboat*

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FLOUNDER • WEAKFISH

FLUKE • BLUES

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Clean Boat—Left Side of Dock

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEGINNERS

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60' OPEN BOAT—TWIN SCREWS

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West Side of Captree Dock

Tackle Available • Families Accomodated

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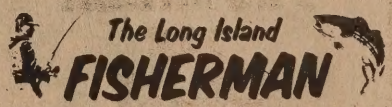

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NEW • CLEAN • COMFORTABLE

65'—Calm, Sheltered Waters—65'

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FAMILY TRADE WELCOME

FLOUNDER *DAILY 8 AM*

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Miss. Susan Koch of Lindenhurst called into LIF a description of her car to become this week's winner of the Litter Box Contest. Miss. Koch has been sent a check for $10 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Speedy V out of Captree for her prize.

This Week's Winner:

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Now Chartering for the 1976 Season

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WEAKS • SHARK • BLUES

50' Twin Diesel—Full Electronics

All Types Ocean & Bay Fishing

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The Open Boat with the FRIENDLY, FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

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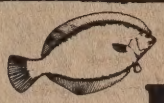
GREENPORT



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"BRAND X" DAILY 8A.M.

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CLAUDIO'S DOCK • (516) 477-0008

"ELEANOR" For Charter—Low Rates—Up to 31 pass. Expert Crew—Choice Dates Avail.

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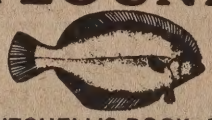
65 FT. OPEN BOAT
GARDINER'S BAY

FLOUNDER



ARE BACK 8 AM DAILY

MITCHELL'S DOCK, GREENPORT
Capt. Richard Jensen
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POOKA V

33 PASS.

44' DIESEL CHARTERBOAT
NIGHT BASS AT PLUM GUT
—NIGHT WEAKS—

Mitchell's Dock
GREENPORT
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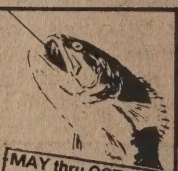
CHARTER BOATS - OPEN BOATS
RESERVATIONS - (516) 477-0008
Ft. of 1st St., GREENPORT, L.I., N.Y.
NOW BOOKING FOR 1976 CHARTERS

LINDENHURST

BULLET



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there and not by flounder fishermen. These are only shorts at present.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Bay End Dock reports that a couple of people tried to go mackerel fishing in their Makos. THe trips were aborted as it was just a little too rough for such small boats. There must be a lot of mackerel out there for them to try. Closer in there was good flounder fishing at Plum Beach. They were using worms and taking flounders to one pound.

Joe at **Salvo's Bait and Tackle** reports pretty good flounder fishing along the seawall from 69th St to Coney Island. The fish are from ½ to 1¼ pounds and are being taken on worms. Catches are from ½ dozen to 15. Striped bass are ranging in size from shorts to 26 inches and have been taken from the seawall starting at 69th and going along to Korvettes. The bass have been taken on worms fished by the flounder fishermen.

Captain Tommy on the **Pilot II** has been doing very good blackfishing during the week off the Jersey coast, a specialty of Tom's. Things slowed down on Saturday and Sunday due to the horrible winds but Tom should continue to work out on these bucktoothed critters once the winds settle down.

The **Flamingo II** reports mackerel are starting to show and it looks like an early, good and strong mackerel run. Saturday's catches were very good and these were scouts so that by next week or so catches should be exceptional. Whiting fishing was very good also when the mackerel slowed. The Klondike banks were fished Saturday and Sunday but the bostons should be in the Bight by the weekend. 20-30 macks per man wre the numbers on Saturday. Sunday, the whiting saved the day, and double and

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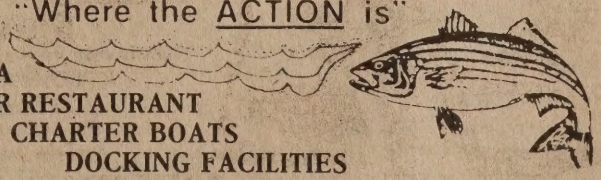

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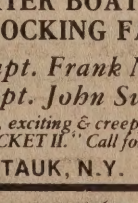

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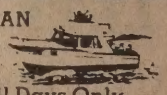

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STRIPED BASS

(Continued from page 11.)

bass spawning and nursery grounds so that the species can continue to replenish the numbers that are harvested. In order to accomplish this we must be very selective about where we place our power plants on rivers and how we cool them. We must demand that monies become available for the rapid and intensive development of sophisticated electronics that will make it possible to learn about bass and other species. We need data! We need it desperately! I wish somebody would explain to me why people are content to argue in a vacuum about nebulous and complex issues such as the conservation of striped bass but are unwilling to pay the price tag in order to gather the data so we know what the hell we're talking about.

MACKEREL FISHING

(Continued from page 5.)

want to have a ball, use a one-handed spinning outfit with 6 to 10 lb. test monofilament line and dispense with the multiple-hook monstrosity for a single artificial. Just about any sub-surface lure will be effective: Diamond jigs, Hopkins, Kastmaster, plastic shrimp, bucktails, Tri-Fin Whiptails - you name it, a mackerel will more than likely pounce on it. Just cast it out, let it sink to the depth of the school and retrieve it. That's all there is to mackerel fishing!

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

Regarding the FISHERMAN'S PACKAGE COUPON for the MONA LISA RESTAURANT, Garden City, please note that no credit cards can be accepted in conjunction with the 10% Off on your check.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

SUBSCRIBER'S CLUB COUPONS

During the month of March *The Long Island Fisherman* will be printing special discount coupons for members of *The Fisherman's Subscriber Club* to use in order to save money on open boats, boat and motor rentals, fishing tackle, charter boats, marine electronics repairs and purchases, etc. In order to use any of these coupons and receive a discount, a valid *Subscriber's Club Card* as shown below must be presented with the coupon. To belong to the Subscribers Club, all you have to do is be a subscriber of *The Long Island Fisherman*. Over 20 coupons will be published in the coming weeks.

Subscribers will also receive *The Fisherman's Package* by mail in the near future. This is a 5½ by 8½ inch booklet that will contain the tide tables for the year, discount blanks for classified advertisements, blanks for submitting a photo of you and your catch for publication in The Fisherman, and L.I.F. Funny Money. Funny Money is used by subscribers to obtain discounts when ordering books and other fishing merchandise by mail order.

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triple headers were common, 20-30 whiting per man being average.

Captain Jim of the **Amberjack IV** told us that Saturday saw very good mackerel fishing for his boat, while Sunday he did a number on the whiting on the Klondike grounds off Shark River. The Amberjack's offshore trip was cancelled due to the dangerous wind conditions.

Captain Tony of the **Big Mohawk II** tells us that Saturday he took loads of mackerel off Asbury Park, 4 miles off the beach, 60-70 per man of these big boston beauties. Three Bronxsmen filled three 20 gallon pails with mackerel. Sunday was a blowout.

Captain Huck of the **Helen II** reports that he had good mackerel fishing all week long including the weekend from Long Branch to the Klondike, with catches of 20-150 fish per man, fish running 1 to 2 pounds. The **Helen II** was weathered out on Sunday due to cyclonic wind conditions.

Captain John Kull of the charterboat **Jonny K II** informs us that he is presently scrubbing his boat down, topside, underside, wheelhouse and engine room in preparation for a big spring bass run which should be early this year due to the earliness of the mackerel season.

STATEN ISLAND

The **Great Kills Park** area is still your best bet for all around fishing according to Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop**. There are flounders, striped bass and herring all to be had there. The beach side of the park has bigger flounder of ¾ to 1½ pounds while on the inside the catches are greater but the fish are from ½ to ¾ of a pound. Two to four striped bass have been taken everyday from the beach side by anglers fishing worms specifically for bass. Glover St and Armstrong Avenue also has had a peck on striped bass on worms. South Beach also had a few striped bass one of 13 pounds was caught there. For those of you who can't sleep there are blue back herring of ½ to ¾ of a pound. There are schools of them inside the harbor biting on worms. At Penny Beach the flounders have started and are ¾ to 1 pound.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Capt. Richie Jensen of the **Wilhelric** called to tell us of the very good flounder fishing they have been having at the South Ferry and new Jessups Neck. These fish are now found on hard bottom and are out of the mud now. The

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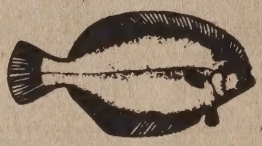

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preferred bait at present is mussels with some taken on sandworms. Catches are pretty good as shown by Gene Austin and his son Mike. On Thursday they caught 53 flounder between one and two pounds. Capt. Jensen said he expects to take the Wilhelric to the east of Gardiner's Island any day now as there are reports of bigger flounders there.

Art White's Bait Shop reports loads of flounder around and big ones. The **Brand X** fished Gardiner's Bay, North Haven and South Ferry on Saturday with excellent results. The "Pooka V" fished North Haven and the mouth of Deering Harbor and took 237 flounder. The fish were from 1-4 pounds with a lot of 2 to 2½ pounds. Bait was mussels and sandworms along with chum. A few stray weeks have been seen. A lot of macks have been taken in the nets and can be taken off the Greenport drifting with mackerel trees.

SOUTHOLD

Peter at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** said the fishing was very good Saturday after the weird wind died down later in the morning. One boat came in at 10:30 with 50 flounder while another that came in later had 90. East Marion and South Ferry were good spots. Sid Hirsch went to Jessups Neck on Sunday and took 26 flounder on mussel bait. The biggest was

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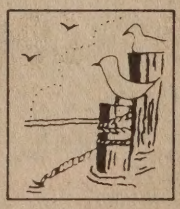

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2 pounds 15 ounces and the smallest was 1 pound 9 ounces. Gill netts had loads of mackerel and bunker but it was to rough to fish for macks.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capty. Marty's Fishing Station reports the first black of the season which was 7 pounds. It was caught by Terry while flounder fishing at Nassau Point where he took 19 flounder to 2½ pounds. Most of the fish are nice sized from ¾ to 1½ pounds being taken on mussel and worm.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center in Aquebogue reports very good flounder fishing at buoys 8 and 9. The anglers are using mussels and worms. Three weakfish were picked up by the flounder fishermen at Shinnecock Canal. Some striped bass fishermen have tried for them in the Sound using worms with no results yet.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports the last good fishing day was Thursday. If you go outside you can get 10 to 15 flounder up to 1½ or 2 ponds. He said they have had one of 3 pounds already.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports big flounder are showing up on the Mount Misery Shoal. One boat had 10 flounder to 2½ pounds. Inside at the Narrows the flounder are from ½ to 1 pound and better. Inside you must chum heavy and more after the flurry ceases.

NORTHPORT

Pete at **Greenlawn Sport Shop** reports good flounder fishing east of Duck Island. The fish are ¾ lb. and better taking worms with mussel chum. Five pound and better striped bass were taken at LILCO on worms. Crab Meadow Creek had trout which were taken on live worms and killies.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnies Bait and Tackle reports good flounder fishing at Lloyd, Huntington and Northport Harbors. The fish are larger but fewer at Duck Island. Big flounder were taken in about 18 feet of water at Collahans Beach. They were from 1 to 2 pounds taken on mussel as bait and chum. Striped bass fishing was fantastic at Crab Meadow and Lilco using a worm with a lead head to aid in casting far out. Use a slow retrieve. Plugs and lures were off because of the bunker schools.

TIDE TABLES

ON → DAY		SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM
4/15	THURSDAY	8:11	8:35	9:42	10:01	11:45	—	11:41	11:59
4/16	FRIDAY	9:01	9:26	10:53	10:52	12:00	12:37	—	12:31
4/17	SATURDAY	9:55	10:19	11:28	11:47	12:52	1:32	12:50	1:24
4/18	SUNDAY	10:49	11:14	—	12:26	1:45	2:33	1:42	2:17
4/19	MONDAY	11:48	—	12:45	1:27	2:46	3:44	2:38	3:15
4/20	TUESDAY	12:10	12:46	1:48	2:34	4:05	4:58	3:37	4:16
4/21	WEDNESDAY	1:07	1:43	2:55	3:40	5:21	6:06	4:39	5:16
4/22	THURSDAY	2:05	2:45	4:02	4:44	6:31	7:07	5:43	6:16

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	− 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	− 0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	− 0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	− 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	− 0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+ 0 25
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	− 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	− 0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN	− 0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	− 0 10
Execution Light	− 0 06
Manhasset Bay	− 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	− 0 11
City Island	− 0 03
Rye Beach	− 0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Connecticut River	+ 1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	− 0 14
Fort Pond Bay	− 0 29
Montauk Inlet	− 0 25
Montauk Point	− 1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	− 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	− 0 08
Herod Point	− 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	− 0 20
Truman Beach	− 0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet −0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook" — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M. Minor	A.M. Major	P.M. Minor	P.M. Major
4/15	4:40	11:30	5:10	11:55
4/16	5:40	:	6:10	12:35
4/17	6:50	1:05	7:20	1:40
4/18	7:55	2:15	8:25	2:40
4/19	8:55	3:10	9:25	3:45
4/20	9:50	4:15	10:25	4:40
4/21	10:55	5:10	11:20	5:35
4/22	11:50	5:55	:	6:15

PHASES OF THE MOON

4-29	4-7	4-14	4-21
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/5	5:36	6:30
4/10	5:28	6:35
4/15	5:19	6:41
4/20	5:12	6:47
4/25	5:04	6:53
4/30	4:57	6:58

The **Ever Ready Boat** reports it was slow on Saturday but Sunday made up for it. Ray and Clark Weinberg had 41 flounders while Al Standish of Stony Point took the pool with a 14 lb. flounder. Most of the Huntington Harbor area fish are ¾ to 1½ pounds.

GLEN COVE

Glen Cove Sports reports increased flounder activity. The west side of the harbor has seen some people trying for striped bass but no verified reports as yet.

PORT WASHINGTON

Louie the lobsterman at **Morelands Bait and Tackle** said there are plenty of flounder in the bay. Along with the flounder are striped bass of 5 pounds and better that are swallowing both flounder hooks. Loads of herring are spawning in the fresh water creeks of the bay.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle sais there was a lot of flounder east of Rodman's Neck. The jetties at Orchard Beach also has quite a few fish. Most shallow water now has flounder. These fish are in the channel at low water and move toward the beaches as the water rises with the incoming tide. The flounder are being taken mostly on sandworms and are from ¾ to 1¼ pounds. Turtle Cove yielded three striped bass to a worm fisherman. Two were shorts and one was 6 pounds.

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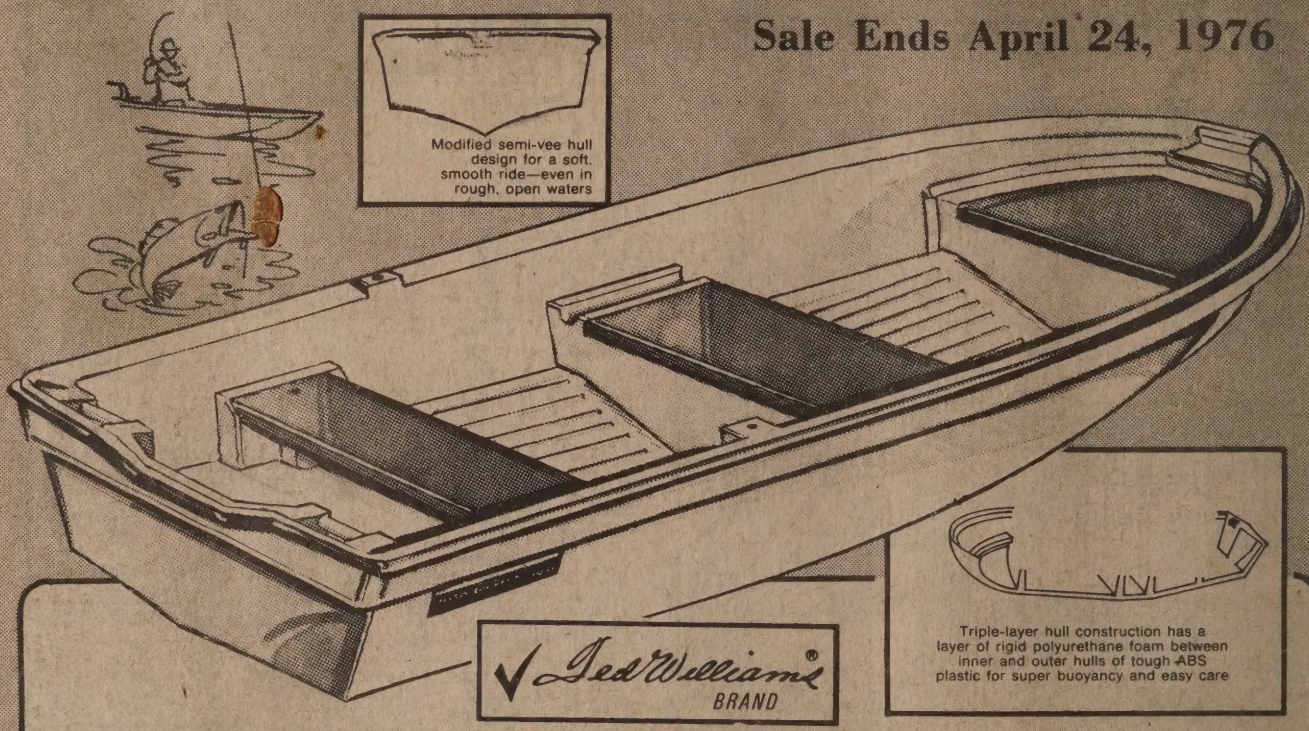
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